Weekly Compilation of

# Presidential Documents

Monday, May 6, 2002
Volume 38—Number 18
Pages 697–742

## Contents

**Addresses and Remarks**

*See also* Appointments and Nominations; Meetings With Foreign Leaders
California
Community leaders, remarks following roundtable discussion in south central Los Angeles—709
Compassionate conservatism in San Jose—715
Gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon
Dinner in Los Angeles—711
Luncheon in Santa Clara—720
Cinco de Mayo reception—738
Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumous presentation to Capt. Ben L. Salomon and Capt. Jon E. Swanson—725
Middle East situation—699
National Day of Prayer reception—734
New Mexico
Representative Heather Wilson, luncheon in Albuquerque—704
University of New Mexico in Albuquerque—701
Radio address—698
Senate inaction on nominations for the Federal judiciary—736

**Appointments and Nominations**

President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Chair—701

**Communications to Federal Agencies**

Emergency military assistance to Afghanistan, memorandum—727
Military drawdown for the Republic of Georgia, memorandum—697

**Executive Orders**

President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health—703

**Interviews With the News Media**

Exchange with reporters in Crawford, TX—699
News conference with European Union leaders, May 2—730

**Meetings With Foreign Leaders**

European Union
President Aznar of the European Council—730
President Prodi of the European Commission—730

(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

**Editor's Note:** The President was at Camp David, MD, on May 3, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

## Week Ending Friday, May 3, 2002

### Memorandum on the Military Drawdown for Georgia

*April 24, 2002*

Presidential Determination No. 2002–17

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense*

*Subject:* Military Drawdown for Georgia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–429), as amended by title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–115), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, defense services from the Department of Defense, and military education and training of an aggregate value of $4 million for Georgia, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 26. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### Proclamation 7547—National Day of Prayer, 2002

*April 26, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Since our Nation's founding, Americans have turned to prayer for inspiration, strength, and guidance. In times of trial, we ask God for wisdom, courage, direction, and comfort. We offer thanks for the countless blessings God has provided. And we thank God for sanctifying every human life by creating each of us in His image. As we observe this National Day of Prayer, we call upon the Almighty to continue to bless America and her people.

Especially since September 11, millions of Americans have been led to prayer. They have prayed for comfort in a time of grief, for understanding in a time of anger, and for protection in a time of uncertainty. We have all seen God's great faithfulness to our country. America's enemies sought to weaken and destroy us through acts of terror. None of us would ever wish on anyone what happened on September 11th. Yet tragedy and sorrow none of us would choose have brought forth wisdom, courage, and generosity. In the face of terrorist attacks, prayer provided Americans with hope and strength for the journey ahead.

God has blessed our Nation beyond measure. We give thanks for our families and loved ones, for the abundance of our land and the fruits of labor, for our inalienable rights and liberties, and for a great Nation that leads the world in efforts to preserve those rights and liberties. We give thanks for all those across the world who have joined with America in the fight against terrorism. We give thanks for the men and women of our military, who are fighting to defend our Nation and the future of civilization.

We continue to remember those who are suffering and face hardships. We pray for peace throughout the world.

On this National Day of Prayer, I encourage Americans to remember the words of St. Paul: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." The Congress, by Public Law 100–307, as amended, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a "National Day of Prayer."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2002, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask Americans to pray for God's protection, to express gratitude for our blessings, and to seek moral and spiritual renewal. I urge all our citizens to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 1. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

## The President's Radio Address

*April 27, 2002*

Good morning. This week, Americans had some good news about strong growth in our economy, yet we cannot be content or complacent. Job creation and business investment are still not what they should be. We want short-term recovery to become long-term expansion. And one of the best ways to encourage high-paying jobs and long-term growth is expanded trade.

I'm pleased that the United States Senate is set to begin an important debate on trade legislation that will help American workers and farmers and consumers. I have traveled around the country and seen the value of trade, and foreign leaders have told me how trade will strengthen security and economic growth in our hemisphere.

The benefits of greater trade are beyond dispute. During the 1990s, U.S. exporters generated about one-quarter of our economic growth through the sale of American goods abroad. Trade boosts our productivity and creates higher paying jobs. The latest global trade agreement and NAFTA have improved the average standard of living for an American family of four by up to $2,000 a year.

Now is the time to build on this record of success. The Senate should pass the pending trade legislation without delay. Trade promotion authority would give me the flexibility to negotiate with other countries to open their markets and get the best deals for American producers and workers. Congress would still have the final up or down vote on any trade agreement. The previous five Presidents have had this authority; it expired 8 years ago. And since then, America has sacrificed its traditional leadership role in trade.

For two decades, trade promotion authority was a bipartisan commitment. It was a commitment because it represented our national interest in expanding foreign markets. More than 150 trade agreements exist throughout the world. The European Union is party to 31 of them and Mexico to 10. The United States is party to just three. Passage of the TPA will give America's entrepreneurs and workers and farmers and ranchers a fair shot at the markets of the world.

The Andean Trade Preference Act is a good example of how trade can also help increase the security of America. Over the past 10 years, this law has given the four Andean nations more access to our markets, which they report has created 140,000 jobs. The law has also helped provide an economic alternative to the production of drugs. We need to renew and expand the Andean Trade Preference Act as soon as possible. If we fail to act before May 16th, 90 days worth of import

duties will come due, raising prices for American consumers and hampering the region's economic development.

I recognize that some American workers may face adjustment challenges as a result of trade. I support helping these workers by reauthorizing and improving trade adjustment assistance programs that will give workers impacted by trade new skills, help them find new jobs quickly, and provide them with financial assistance.

Nearly 5 months have passed since the House of Representatives approved trade promotion authority and the Andean trade legislation. Every day we go without expanding trade is another day of missed opportunities to strengthen our economy.

The Senate must act and affirm America's trade leadership in a bipartisan manner. We cannot let this initiative fall victim to partisan politics. Our trading partners are waiting for us. American workers are depending on us. And America cannot afford further delay.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6 p.m. on April 25 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 26 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

*April 28, 2002*

***The President.*** Good afternoon. I am pleased by today's developments in the Middle East and believe they'll prove to be important steps along the path to peace in the Middle East.

I commend the Israeli Cabinet for its decision this morning to allow Chairman Arafat to move freely, to accept international monitoring of six prisoners who are at Chairman Arafat's compound, and to withdraw its forces from Ramallah. The Palestinian Authority has agreed to accept this approach.

Many parties contributed to today's positive development. The United Kingdom played an especially important role in creating a framework for international monitoring of the six prisoners.

I've called on all parties to step up their responsibilities, and today's developments are a positive sign that they are doing so.

Much hard work remains, and this is a time for all of us to commit to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East. Chairman Arafat should now seize this opportunity to act decisively, in word and in deed, against terror directed at Israeli citizens. As we work to improve the security situation in the region, all of us must step up our efforts to bring humanitarian relief and economic assistance to the Palestinian people.

This morning I called Crown Prince Abdullah to thank him for his visit to the United States. Our discussions forged a personal bond of friendship and strengthened the 60-year relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. The Crown Prince has offered a number of constructive ideas for making political progress between Israel and the Palestinians. We will continue to build on these ideas as we move forward to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

### *Saudi Peace Plan*

***Q.*** Mr. President, on the Saudi peace plan, where are the points of objection that you've not been able to agree upon?

***The President.*** Well, they came with some constructive ideas, and we listened very carefully to their ideas, and we will continue to work with them and others in the region to promote them. I believe that there is a lot of common ground, starting with all parties assuming responsibility—their responsibilities.

The Crown Prince clearly understood there is a responsibility for the Arab world. He also believes strongly that Chairman Arafat must step up and believes that Israel should withdraw from the territories. And that is taking place now.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

***Ramallah/Bethlehem/Jenin***

***Q.*** Mr. President, is today's proposal that was accepted by Mr. Sharon and Mr. Arafat a model for lifting the siege in Bethlehem? And are you concerned that the Israelis have not allowed the U.N. monitors into Jenin yet?

***The President.*** Well, first of all, on the Jenin issue, that's being worked out now at the U.N.

And secondly, in terms of Bethlehem, I believe we're making good progress toward ending that part of the Israeli incursion, and hopefully it will get done soon.

But the big news, of course, is Ramallah, and Chairman Arafat is now free to move around and free to lead. And we expect him to do so.

***Situation in the Middle East***

***Q.*** Mr. President——

***The President.*** Okay, Stretch.

***Q.*** ——on that point, what would you expect to see from Chairman Arafat in the next 24, 48, 72 hours in terms of explicit demonstrations of his leadership?

***The President.*** Well, of course, one of the things that Chairman Arafat must do is condemn and thwart terrorist activities. And it's important he do so.

Again, I keep saying this, and it's so important for all of us involved in this process to recognize there are clear responsibilities. And his responsibility is just what I said, to renounce, to help detect and stop terrorist killings. The Israelis have got responsibilities.

The key responsibility for the world at large is to help end the suffering of the Palestinian people through humanitarian and economic assistance. I am very serious about our Government's involvement in a—in humanitarian relief. I—my heart grieves for a people who have no hope, and there are a lot of people who have no hope in the Middle East. There are some Palestinians—a lot of Palestinians who wonder whether or not life is worth living. And we've got, as a world, have got to help them understand there is a positive life ahead for they and their children.

There is—people in Israel, of course, are deeply concerned about their security, and I can completely understand that. And therefore, all of us—Arab nation, Palestinians, United States, the EU—must all continue our collective effort to fight terror.

There are clearly people in the Middle East who would use terror as a weapon to derail any peace process. And for there to be peace—something I long for and something I know that Israel and the Palestinian people long for—in order for there to be peace, we must continue to rout out terror. And the message can't be more clear, and we're going to continue to hold people accountable for results.

***Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel***

***Q.*** Did you invite Mr. Sharon to visit?

***The President.*** As I understand—yes, we did. Listen, I'm pleased anytime people want to come and visit. We've had the King of Morocco; we've had Crown Prince Abdullah, obviously. And when I talked to him on the phone this weekend, the subject didn't come up, but as—I understand that there is a—discussions going on about a potential trip. I welcome a trip here to the United States. I welcome people from that part of the world to come and bare their soul and discuss their plans for peace.

The thing I always look for when I talk to the leaders is a vision for peace. It's impossible to achieve a peace unless there's a vision. And one of the things I appreciated about the Saudi initiative a while ago was it laid out a potential peace process, a plan for peace, a way to get to peace in the region—something we all long for.

***Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority***

***Q.*** Are you ready to include Arafat in that open invitation? Are you ready now to include Arafat in that open invitation?

***The President.*** Mr. Arafat must perform. Mr. Arafat must do his job. I've called upon Mr. Arafat in the past; I'll continue to call upon Mr. Arafat to lead. The other day—somebody asked me one time, a while ago, they said, "Has he disappointed you? Has he lost your respect?" I said, "Well, he hasn't earned my respect yet. He must earn my respect by leading." And there are a lot of people, a lot of Palestinians who are suffering, and now is the time for him to step up.

This has been a hopeful day for the region, and we must continue to press forward to peace.

I want to thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:25 p.m. at the Bush Ranch.

## Remarks at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico

*April 29, 2002*

Well, thank you very much for that warm, New Mexican welcome. It's nice to be back in this beautiful State. I'm particularly delighted to be sharing the podium with a remarkable American, Pete Domenici. He didn't finish the story. After I interrupted him, he re-interrupted me—[*laughter*]—and gave me my marching orders. [*Laughter*] I said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Senator." [*Laughter*]

No, I really enjoy working with Pete, and I appreciate so very much that leaders such as Pete have been working to make America a more welcoming place for people with disabilities. The work is progressing. We are making progress, but it certainly isn't finished. There's a lot to do, and some of the greatest health needs and obstacles and stigmas concern mental health. We are determined to confront the hidden suffering of Americans with mental illness.

Pete and I share a lot in common. We love the Southwest. We care deeply about issues that face our country. And we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I love being with Pete and Nancy, because their love and respect for each other is so evident and so profound. And I love watching Nancy's face, because it reveals and is a window into a compassionate heart. And I want to thank Nancy Domenici.

I also want to thank Charles Curie for coming. Pete introduced Charles. Charles is a good hand, and I appreciate him being here. I also want to thank Phil Eaton and all the good folks here at the University of New Mexico. I'm so honored also to be traveling today with Heather Wilson. Heather is a solid citizen who brings a lot of dignity to the office she holds and a lot of class. And I'm proud to call her friend. I want to thank the State officials who are here, the Lieutenant Governor, thank you for coming.

I also want to tell you about a lady I met named Lucy Salazar. Where's Lucy? Is she here? Lucy, thank you for coming. It's kind of off the subject but really not off the subject, because one of the things I try to do when I go into communities is herald soldiers in the armies of compassion, those souls who have heard the call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself and have followed through on that call, the selfless citizens whose compassion for their neighbor is really one of the things that makes America so strong and powerful, particularly as we stand tall in the face of evil.

I like to tell my fellow citizens that if you're interested in fighting evil—which, by the way, we're going to do—if you're interested—[*laughter*]. But one way to help is do some good. And it's that collective good that will define the true value and character of our country.

And Lucy Salazar is a retired Federal Government worker. She teaches reading skills to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children. She's incredibly important. She helps those with disabilities participate in the fine and performing arts. She volunteers through her church. She is a great citizen, and oftentimes, citizens such as her never get the praise they deserve. Lucy, thank you for coming and representing thousands of people like you.

Millions of Americans—millions—are impaired at work, at school, or at home by episodes of mental illness. Many are disabled by severe and persistent mental problems. These illnesses affect individuals; they affect their families; and they affect our country.

As many Americans know, it is incredibly painful to watch someone you love struggle with an illness that affects their mind and their feelings and their relationships with others. We heard stories today in a roundtable discussion about that—what the struggle means for family.

Remarkable treatments exist, and that's good. Yet many people—too many people—remain untreated. Some end up addicted to drugs or alcohol. Some end up on the streets, homeless. Others end up in our jails, our prisons, our juvenile detention facilities.

Our country must make a commitment: Americans with mental illness deserve our understanding, and they deserve excellent care. They deserve a health care system that treats their illness with the same urgency as a physical illness. To meet this goal, we've got to overcome obstacles, and I want to talk about three such obstacles this morning.

The first obstacle is the stigma, the stigma that often surrounds mental illness, a stigma caused by a history of misunderstanding, fear, and embarrassment. Stigma leads to isolation and discourages people from seeking the treatment they need. Political leaders, health care professionals, and all Americans must understand and send this message: Mental disability is not a scandal; it is an illness. And like physical illness, it is treatable, especially when the treatment comes early.

Today, new drugs and therapies have vastly improved the outlook for millions of Americans with the most serious mental illnesses and for millions more with less severe illnesses. The treatment success rates for schizophrenia and clinical depression are comparable to those for heart disease. That's good news in America, and we must encourage more and more Americans to understand and to seek more treatment.

The second obstacle to quality mental health care is our fragmented mental health service delivery system. Mental health centers and hospitals, homeless shelters, the justice system, and our schools all have contact with individuals suffering from mental disorders. Yet, many of these disorders are difficult to diagnose. This makes it even harder to provide the mentally ill with the care they need. Many Americans fall through the cracks of the current system. Many years and lives are lost before help, if it is given at all, is given.

Consider this example—and for the experts in the field, they will confirm this is a story which is oftentimes too true—a 14-year-old boy who started experimenting with drugs to ease his severe depression. That happens. This former honor student became a drug addict. He dropped out of school, was incarcerated 6 times in 16 years. Only 2 years ago, when he was 30 years old, did the doctors finally diagnose his condition as bipolar disorder, and he began a successful program, a successful long-term treatment program.

And to make sure that the cracks are closed, I am honored to announce what we call the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. It is charged to study the problems and gaps in our current system of treatment and to make concrete recommendations for immediate improvements that will be implemented, and these will be improvements that can be implemented and must be implemented by the Federal Government, the State Government, local agencies, as well as public and private health care providers.

To chair the Commission, I've selected Michael Hogan, Dr. Hogan. I appreciate your coming, Michael. Dr. Hogan has served as the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health for more than 10 years and is recognized as a leader in this profession. He has been focused, as a State official, on how our mental health system works and how it doesn't work.

I look forward to the Commission's findings. I look forward to their proposals. I look forward to making progress and fixing the system so that Americans do not fall through the cracks.

The third major obstacle to effective mental health care is the often unfair treatment limitations placed on mental health in insurance coverage. Many private health insurance plans have developed effective programs to identify patients with mental illnesses, and they help them get their treatment they need to regain their health.

But insurance plans too often place greater restrictions on the treatment of mental illness than on the treatment of other medical illnesses. As a result, some Americans are unable to get effective medical treatments that would allow them to function well in their daily lives.

Our health insurance system must treat serious mental illness like any other disease. And that was Senator Domenici's message to me at the Oval Office. [*Laughter*] And it was Nancy's message when we had them up for dinner. [*Laughter*] And I want to appreciate the fact that they have worked tirelessly on this problem.

I have a record on this issue. As the Governor of Texas, I signed a bill to ensure that patients who critically need mental health are treated fairly. Senator Domenici and I share this commitment: Health plans should not be allowed to apply unfair treatment limitations or financial requirements on mental health benefits.

It is critical that we provide full—as we provide full mental health parity, that we do not significantly run up the cost of health care. I'll work with the Senator. I will work with the Speaker. I will work with their House and Senate colleagues to reach an agreement on mental health parity this year.

We must work for a welcoming and compassionate society, a society where no American is dismissed and no American is forgotten. This is the great and hopeful story of our country, and we can write another chapter. We must give all Americans who suffer from mental illness the treatment and the respect they deserve.

Thank you all. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:34 a.m. at the Continuing Education Center. In his remarks, he referred to Charles G. Curie, Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; R. Philip Eaton, interim vice president, Health Sciences, University of New Mexico; and Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley of New Mexico. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Executive Order 13263—President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

*April 29, 2002*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to improve America's mental health service delivery system for individuals with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances, it is hereby ordered as follows:

***Section 1.*** *Establishment.* There is hereby established the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (Commission).

***Sec. 2.*** *Membership.* (a) The Commission's membership shall be composed of:

(i) Not more than fifteen members appointed by the President, including providers, payers, administrators, and consumers of mental health services and family members of consumers; and

(ii) Not more than seven ex officio members, four of whom shall be designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the remaining three of whom shall be designated—one each—by the Secretaries of the Departments of Labor, Education, and Veterans Affairs.

(b) The President shall designate a Chair from among the fifteen members of the Commission appointed by the President.

***Sec. 3.*** *Mission.* The mission of the Commission shall be to conduct a comprehensive study of the United States mental health service delivery system, including public and private sector providers, and to advise the President on methods of improving the system. The Commission's goal shall be to recommend improvements to enable adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. In carrying out its mission, the Commission shall, at a minimum:

(a) Review the current quality and effectiveness of public and private providers and Federal, State, and local government involvement in the delivery of services to individuals with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances, and identify unmet needs and barriers to services.

(b) Identify innovative mental health treatments, services, and technologies that are demonstrably effective and can be widely replicated in different settings.

(c) Formulate policy options that could be implemented by public and private providers, and Federal, State, and local governments to integrate the use of effective treatments and services, improve coordination among service providers, and improve community integration for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances.

***Sec. 4.*** *Principles.* In conducting its mission, the Commission shall adhere to the following principles:

(a) The Commission shall focus on the desired outcomes of mental health care, which are to attain each individual's maximum level of employment, self-care, interpersonal relationships, and community participation;

(b) The Commission shall focus on community-level models of care that efficiently coordinate the multiple health and human service providers and public and private payers involved in mental health treatment and delivery of services;

(c) The Commission shall focus on those policies that maximize the utility of existing resources by increasing cost effectiveness and reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulatory barriers;

(d) The Commission shall consider how mental health research findings can be used most effectively to influence the delivery of services; and

(e) The Commission shall follow the principles of Federalism, and ensure that its recommendations promote innovation, flexibility, and accountability at all levels of government and respect the constitutional role of the States and Indian tribes.

***Sec. 5.*** *Administration.* (a) The Department of Health and Human Services, to the extent permitted by law, shall provide funding and administrative support for the Commission.

(b) To the extent funds are available and as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), members of the Commission appointed from among private citizens of the United States may be allowed travel expenses while engaged in the work of the Commission, including per diem in lieu of subsistence. All members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(c) The Commission shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director, who shall be selected by the President. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support, and additional staff support for the Commission shall be provided by executive branch departments and agencies.

(d) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the Commission, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

***Sec. 6.*** *Reports.* The Commission shall submit reports to the President as follows:

(a) *Interim Report.* Within 6 months from the date of this order, an interim report shall describe the extent of unmet needs and barriers to care within the mental health system and provide examples of community-based care models with success in coordination of services and providing desired outcomes.

(b) *Final Report.* The final report will set forth the Commission's recommendations, in accordance with its mission as stated in section 3 of this order. The submission date shall be determined by the Chair in consultation with the President.

***Sec. 7.*** *Termination.* The Commission shall terminate 1 year from the date of this order, unless extended by the President prior to that date.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,
April 29, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 3.

## Remarks at a Luncheon for Representative Heather Wilson in Albuquerque

*April 29, 2002*

***The President.*** Gosh, thanks for that warm welcome. It's great to be back in New Mexico. I'm glad to know my Texas passport is still active. [*Laughter*]

I'm here because it is very important for the people of New Mexico to send Heather Wilson back to the United States Congress. I'm here to give my whole-hearted support to her candidacy.

Before I spend a little time fleshing that out, I want to say something about the senior Senator from New Mexico. There's no finer American in the United States Senate than Pete Domenici. I'm proud to call him friend, and I'm proud to get lectured by him all the time. [*Laughter*] It seems like he's always got important issues on his mind, the labs, mental health parity. But he is a great ally and a really fine Senator.

I'm also honored to have served with—been the President at the same time that Joe Skeen was the United States Congressman from another congressional district here in New Mexico. We're going to miss old Joe, but I'm confident he still has my address and willing to give——

***Audience member.*** [*Inaudible*]

***The President.*** That's good. But thank you for your service.

I want to thank John Dendahl, the party chairman of the Republican Party of New Mexico, and all the party leaders who are here. I particularly want to say something about the grassroots, the people who work the phone banks and lick the envelopes and do all the work necessary to keep people like me and Pete and Heather in office. And I want to thank you for your loyalty; I want to thank you for your passion for our political party; and I want to thank you for the endless hours you put on our behalf.

I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor and all the State officials who are here.

And I want to thank you all for supporting Heather. Here's the way I feel: Anytime you find somebody who brings such class and dignity to a political office, we as Americans owe our support to her. And Heather Wilson brings a lot of class and a lot of dignity.

You know, in Washington there's a lot of—there can be a lot of noise, a lot of shrill voices, people who are—people up there sometimes are the ones who like to divide people into camps and call names and point fingers. They think that's effective, and it's such a wonderful contrast to have the quiet dignity and the competence of Heather Wilson in the United States Congress. It is so good and refreshing and good for our democracy and good for our country that people like Heather are willing to serve. She can get things done for New Mexico.

The thing I appreciate, Heather, is she is there for the right reason, to serve the people, to represent the people of New Mexico. And I'm proud of our political party, make no mistake about it, but I'm proud of the fact that Heather puts our country first, that she understands the importance of our Nation and what it stands for.

I remember so well going to Griegos Elementary with Heather. She said, "You come to my district. I want you to go, first and foremost, to an elementary school." Because she understands that when we educate our children, the American Dream will be extended to every neighborhood. I appreciate that spirit.

She told me that the day I signed the no-child-left-behind legislation, which was a significant piece of educational reform, supported both by Heather and by Pete, that she went back to Griegos. And it was a fitting place for her to go, because this is a piece of legislation which says that America will refuse to condemn any child to failure. It is a piece of public—legislation that says to our public schools, we'll set high standards for every child—I mean every child—that we trust the local people to chart the path to excellence, and that we refuse to accept a system that simply shuffles children through. And the beneficiaries of this type of mentality are going to be the children who go to Griegos, and Heather knows that. And I want to thank you for your strong support on education reform. It means so much to this part of the world, to all our country that we got this legislation done.

I also appreciate so very much Heather's values. You know, we're coming in; I said—I'm trying to get her to talk about issues; she wants to talk about Little League baseball. [*Laughter*] Here I am, trying to tell her what's going on the world, which we eventually got to, but the first thing on her mind was to let me know that her son and Jay's son is a Little League player and how proud of the fact that she was that the lad suits up, gives it his all, occasionally gets a base hit. Must be Jay's genes. [*Laughter*] But she loves her family. She loves her husband. And I think that's also an important trait for anybody to serve our public well.

And Jay, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding and support for this fine lady who serves New Mexico in the United States Congress.

I also want to thank Heather for her strong support for Kirtland Air Force Base. People got to—I think it's important, when people start heading in these voting booths next fall, that—particularly in this part of the world—that they understand Heather's influence, that she's making a difference, that she's getting things done for this part of the world. And one of the things that she's good at is understanding the importance for national defense. Kirtland Air Force Base is an incredible part of that national defense of the United States.

I remember so well campaigning here in New Mexico and then coming back to the Barelas Job Opportunity Center, which she and Pete helped get started. Pete and Heather were telling me that there's been 6,000 people that have been helped in this job center, people to be able to find work. And I want to thank you all for inviting me back for—when we opened up that facility, and I want to thank you for leading on that.

But jobs is an incredibly important part of Heather's agenda, and it's an incredibly important part of mine. And it—here's the way I feel about it: If anybody's looking for work and can't find work, we've got a job problem. And I know the numbers are beginning to look better, but you know, I leave the numbers for the statisticians and the bean counters. We're practical people that's—got to keep asking the question, how do we keep America employed, and how do we keep the job base growing?

And one other thing Heather understands is the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which small businesses can grow and the entrepreneurs of America can flourish. And we campaigned on the idea that if you let people have more of their own money—I emphasize "their own money"—that there would be more money to spend, more demand for goods and services. And with more demand for goods and services, somebody will produce the goods and services. And when they produce the goods and services, it means somebody is going to find work.

This tax cut that I campaigned on and fought for, that Pete and Heather and Joe supported, was the right thing for America at this point in our history. And it has made a big difference in helping people find work.

Heather also understands the need to have fairness when it comes to Medicare. And she is going to take a leadership role in helping to provide prescription drug coverage within the Medicare system, so our seniors do not go without. It's an important initiative, and thank goodness she's willing to lend her talent to get this job done. She's close to the Speaker on this issue, and when you're close to the Speaker on this issue, you have a good chance to make a significant difference for the elderly of not only New Mexico and the United States of America.

There's a lot more issues that we could talk about where Heather has taken a leadership role, but I do want to talk about one more, and that is energy. Our Nation has not had an energy policy. And I came along with the Vice President, and I tasked him to develop an energy policy, one that recognizes that technology is going to help us conserve better. And we need to conserve more. We need to be wiser about how we use our energy. And part of our vision and part of our plan and part of our initiative is to make sure that we're able to get power to the consumer across a modern infrastructure, as opposed to one that is now aging and decrepit.

But we also recognize that it is important for us to find more energy in America, that we ought to produce more. We have a national security problem. Over 50 percent of our energy comes from other countries, and some of those countries don't like us. Some of them aren't our friends. And so for the sake of our national security and for the sake of our economic security, we need an energy bill. One passed the House, and I want to thank Heather for her leadership. One has passed the Senate, and I appreciate Pete for his leadership. And now it's time for Congress to act and get a bill to my desk which I can sign.

I mentioned national security, and that's on my mind these days. Every morning when I'm there in Washington, I walk into the

beautiful Oval Office and read a threat assessment prepared by our intelligence agencies, and it's in a list of what we're learning and what we think and what we know about an enemy that still wants to hit America. So every day I'm reminded that my biggest task and most important job is to protect the homeland.

And we're making progress. We're still a vulnerable nation, and the reason we're vulnerable is because we've got an enemy that hates us, an enemy that is nothing but cold-blooded killers. That's all they are, as far as I'm concerned. We're doing a much better job of sharing information—of gathering information and sharing it. To put it in Midland, Texas, terms: Any time we get a hint, we're following up on it. Every time we get a sense that something may be about to happen or somebody is trying to attack a U.S. citizen or facility, you just need to know we're responding. Our number one priority of our law enforcement agencies around America is to run down every lead, every hint.

We've also got a strategy here at home to deal with bioterrorism. And that's a real threat to America, but we must be prepared if such a threat were to come. We've got an initiative to make sure that our borders are more secure. We've got to do a better job at the INS of understanding who is coming into our country, why they're coming into our country, and how long they intend to stay in our country. And if they're going to be here for a short period of time, are they actually leaving our country? For the sake of our national security, we've got to reform the INS and bring it up to speed and make it a modern agency with the capacity to gather and disperse information in a modern way.

But the best way to secure the homeland for America is to run these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And it's not going to be easy, nor is it going to happen as quickly as some might like. I do not have a calendar on my desk that says, "At such and such a time, you will stop. You, President Bush, on such and such a date will have run out the string, and it's time for you to quit." That calendar doesn't exist, because my mind-frame is this: When it comes to defending our freedoms, no matter how long it takes, that's exactly what this country is going to do.

We're not going to forget what happened on September the 11th. We've learned more about the enemy. We learned a good lesson, that two oceans can no longer protect us, that because we're an open society, we're a vulnerable society. But we're not going to allow our openness and our love for freedom to go away. I mean, one of the things the enemy wants to do is to say, "You know, since you love freedom, you're under attack." And I guess the corollary is, is that, "Get rid of your freedoms." But that's not the way we think in America. When it comes to defense of our country, when it comes to our defense and defending our values, we're plenty tough. And that's the way it's going to be, much to the chagrin of the killers.

I have unleashed the United States military, and they have not let us down. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, a son or a daughter or a husband or a wife, I want to thank you, on behalf of a grateful nation, for their sacrifice and your understanding.

I have submitted a budget to the United States Congress which makes a priority of our national defense. And I expect that—the appropriations process to pass the defense bill first. In times of war, I ought to have the defense appropriations bill on my desk as soon as possible. We don't need any people playing politics with the defense of the United States of America.

You know, when I was campaigning in Chicago one time, they said, "Would you ever have a deficit?" I said, "I hope not." I said, "I think it's important for us to make—to work hard to have a balanced budget." But I said, "Yes, I'd have a deficit if I were the President only if we were at war or in a recession or in times of emergency." I didn't think I was going to draw the trifecta. [*Laughter*]

But when it comes time to defending our freedom, we need to understand, even though the price of freedom is high, it is not too high. It is never too high. And that's what the Congress has got to say, and that's what the Congress has got to know.

The other thing that's important for us is to uphold the doctrines that I lay out, or the country lays out. And when we said, "If you

harbor a terrorist, you're just as bad as a terrorist," I meant it, and the Taliban found out exactly what we meant.

Now, one of the things that's important for our fellow citizens to understand is that we're not seeking revenge; we're seeking justice. And when we went into Afghanistan, we went in not as conquerors—we weren't interested in conquering anybody—we went in as liberators. And I'm so proud of the fact that not only is this Nation tough and strong but that we care deeply about young girls who had never been to school in their lives, and we're proud to have freed the people of Afghanistan from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

We've got a lot of work to do there. And so you just need to know that our military is going to be there for awhile. I mean, they've got these little pockets of these killers showing up, and we're just going to have to find them, keep chasing them down. We've got work to help this country rebuild her military, so that she can defend herself. We've got work about—to make sure that the humanitarian aid and assistance that we're so generously providing is effective. So we'll be there for awhile. We'll be there for awhile.

And another reason why we're going to be there is because the second phase of this war—our strategy has been to deny sanctuary to any of the killers in anywhere else, in any other country. So when we find a country that looks like a safe haven for them, a place where they may try to bunch up and train or set up a logistical command center, we're shutting them down. We've got a great coalition, thanks to our Secretary of State and my administration. We're nurturing that coalition. We're reminding them that to be a member of this coalition, you've got to perform. We don't need any sweet talk; what we want is results. And so we're denying sanctuary to Al Qaida killers and terrorist killers. And so therefore, if they have no sanctuary, it's more likely they'll remain in Afghanistan, which is fine with us, because that's where we're prepared to chase them down.

I wish I could tell you that—what the timetable is going to be. I can't. But the good news is, the American people don't expect a timetable. They're unified, and for that I'm grateful. We are strong, and for that I'm grateful. We're a disciplined nation when it comes to our defense, and for that I'm incredibly grateful as well.

You know, this war on terror is bigger than just an organization. It's certainly bigger than one person. We've also got to deal with—and we will—and confront—and we will—the fact that nations—there are nations in this world who hate America who are developing and have developed weapons of mass destruction. And a nightmare scenario for future generations of freedom-loving people is to allow one of these nations to team up with a terrorist organization so that they could blackmail America and our friends and hold us hostage. And you just need to know, I'm just not going to let that happen.

History has called us to action. History has given this chance—this nation a chance to lead. And that's exactly what we're going to do, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

I'm pleased with the support I'm getting in Congress. I want to thank Pete and Heather and Joe for their strong support for the national defense of the United States. I am going to make sure that as the budget process goes on, that I will defend the priorities that I have submitted to Congress, primarily our national defense and homeland security, and make a clear case to Congress not to overspend, to show some fiscal discipline and some restraint, that we've got plenty of money to fund our priorities. We've just got to make sure we stay focused on the priorities.

I also want you to know that there are a way for every one of us to help join in this war against terror to fight evil. And the way I like to put it is, go love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you want to fight evil, do some good; that if you want to show the killers that we're not going to be intimidated, feed the homeless, mentor a child, start a program, a faith-based program in your church or synagogue or mosque, all aimed at showing somebody who may have fallen to the depths of despair that somebody loves them, that there is a good and gracious God that loves them. And you

can be a messenger, on behalf of the good and gracious God, to help somebody in need.

And that's what's happening around America. This is a unique moment, because the character of our country is shining through. I mean, we're tough, but we're compassionate. We're strong, but we want to help the weak. And by doing so, the country is an amazing place for people who are fortunate enough to become an American. When people see our true character, they're amazed that we're a welcoming society. It doesn't matter how you were born or where you're raised; it doesn't matter if your mother or dad speaks Spanish and not English, because you're welcome in America. This country is available for you and your children.

We need to show the world that when they hit us, they not only awakened our military and our strength and our resolve; they also awakened a deep and abiding compassion in our fellow human beings, who may not be as fortunate as we are.

I want to thank you all, if you're doing that. If you're not, I call you to do it. I ask you, on behalf of the country, to redouble your efforts or to begin your efforts to help somebody who might hurt, to love somebody who needs love. And in so doing, you help strengthen America. You help us defeat an enemy that tried to change our country.

It is such an honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. I'm honored you came today, and I want to thank you for supporting a really fine soul, in Heather Wilson.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the Pyramid Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Pyramid Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley of New Mexico; and Representative Wilson's husband, Jay Hone. Representative Wilson is a candidate for reelection in New Mexico's First Congressional District.

## Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion With Community Leaders in South Central Los Angeles, California

*April 29, 2002*

***The President:*** Well, thank you all very much, my fellow Americans. I'm honored to be here. I want to thank you, John, very much for your leadership and your vision. It's nice to see your mother here. My mother is still telling me what to do, too. [*Laughter*] I'm sure you're listening. [*Laughter*] So am I.

I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and just share some thoughts with you about what's on my mind. I want to thank Reverend Murray. I want to thank him for riding back from the airport with me and sharing his thoughts and his vision and his hope.

I want to thank John Mack. John's reputation had preceded him and managed to even make it to the State of Texas. [*Laughter*] He's a great leader of the Urban League, and I want to thank him for his visionary and steadfast leadership. As John told me, that in the aftermath of the civil unrest, this part of the world began to rebuild, became a more hopeful place, and John quickly pointed out, partly because of the leadership of the two men I just named. And I want to thank them for being such solid citizens in a community that needed leadership.

I want to thank, as well, Charles Kim and Antonia Hernandez for inviting me and helping set up what has been a very interesting and important discussion for me. You see, the President is—can still learn. And I try to learn and absorb what's best about America, so I can share it with other Americans. And the spirit of the discussion we had was important for me to see and hear. I wish all of America could have heard how optimistic and hopeful people were.

These are folks from the religious community, community-based community, the business leaders. We had bankers. We've got some entrepreneurs that are—and I know a little something about entrepreneur—the entrepreneurial spirit, and these were the entrepreneurs' entrepreneur. [*Laughter*] I want to thank them for telling me their stories.

You know, I firmly believe God is on the side of justice and reconciliation. But as Martin Luther King said, "God isn't going to do it all by Himself." And I was with—I like to put it this way, that these good folks are soldiers in the armies of compassion. We had some generals; we had some sergeants; we had some privates; but all of them a part of

this army; all of them anxious to make the American experience extend throughout all neighborhoods. And I feel the same way.

I fully understand that 10 years ago this city, because of some violence—a lot of violence—saw incredible destruction in lives and in property. Mr. Kim was talking about the dashed dreams of many of the Korean entrepreneurs. A lot of hopes were lost. The violence and the lawlessness always affects the most poor, always hurts the weakest. And yet out of this violence and ugliness came new hope, and we discussed that today.

I want to congratulate this city. Mr. Mayor, you're the mayor of a great city. And I want to congratulate the leaders here and the people here, to show the rest of the country what is possible, what can happen, what is possible in America when people put aside differences and focus on what's best for all.

And that's what I heard today at the table. We talked about economic development. I believe strongly it's important for people to learn to own, own their own business. And we talked about the hurdles between ownership and reality and what the Government can do about those hurdles. I heard from bankers talking about the CRA and how to make that more effective. I heard from shopping center developers who believe strongly and understand fully that investment in south central L.A. is, first and foremost, good business policy. And it obviously is good social policy as well. And I want to thank them for sharing that with me.

I heard about the renaissance program. More than once did I hear about it. [*Laughter*] I was about ready to sign up. [*Laughter*]

We talked about education. I like to put it this way: Reading is the new civil right. Because if you can't read, you cannot possibly be educated, and if you're not educated, you can't succeed. And so in order to make sure that everybody—and I mean everybody; I don't care how you vote—everybody gets a shot, we've got to make sure that everybody gets educated.

And there is a role for the Federal Government to play. We fund, and that's important. But I firmly believe that the Federal Government and local governments must expect the best from every child—I mean the best. Every child can learn. I refuse to accept a system that quits on certain children because it's deemed—they're deemed to be too hard to educate. We must determine as a society whether our children are learning or not. And if they're not, we've got to insist upon change. We can't have a system that just simply shuffles children through. That's got to end if we're going to make sure that every child gets educated in America.

I am passionate on the subject of education. I also am wise enough to know that all wisdom doesn't exist in Washington, DC. We can write a pretty good check, but we ought not to be telling the local folks how to chart the path to excellence. We ought to be encouraging educational and social entrepreneurs to get involved with the education of every single child. And when there's failure, we need to blow the whistle on failure. And when we find success, we need to praise success.

We talked about after-school programs. Big Lou Dantzler was talking about the Challengers Boys and Girls Clubs, and I want to thank Lou for his leadership.

We talked about—we talked about faith and the importance of faith in our society. Now, I don't want Government to be the church, and I don't want the church to be the Government. But Government should not fear faith and faith-based programs. Government should not worry about programs that come out of church or synagogue or a mosque, all aimed at loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. The universal call to love is something to be nourished, not feared.

And I—there is a role for Government. When we fund programs, we ought not to discriminate against faith-based programs, and we ought not to cause the faith-based program to have to change its mission in order to receive any money. Otherwise it won't be a faith-based program. It will fall into the old Government program. See, Government can hand out money, but Government cannot put hope in people's hearts. It cannot put faith in people's lives. And faith is a powerful—faith is a powerful motivator. Many a program relies upon faith, and we ought to welcome the faith-based programs into the compassionate delivery of help.

I know firsthand. I know what faith can mean in somebody's life. That's why I remind people, I'm just a humble sinner who sought redemption. And I—[*applause*].

***Audience member.*** Preach, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

***The President.*** Well, I don't want to get too far. [*Laughter*]

***Audience member.*** Well—[*laughter*].

***The President.*** You know, we have a chance to show the world that out of the evil that was done on September the 11th can come incredible good. I believe that; I truly do. I believe that by being firm and tough when it comes to hunting down killers, that eventually we can help bring peace to the world. That is my goal. I want the children and their children's children to grow up in a peaceful world. And I think we can do that; I do.

And we can show the world the true face of America as well. Oh, it's a diverse face, no question about it, which is our strength, not our weakness. But it's a face that can be bound by common goals and common values. It's a face that can stand squarely in the face of evil by the collective acts of people doing good in America.

And that's what I heard today. The great hope of the country really isn't the Government. The great hope of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our people. You've showed it in this community. Ten years after civil unrest that made history, the community is rebuilding herself with great hope and great promise.

And that's an important lesson. It's an important lesson not only for other communities; it's an important lesson for our whole country, because out of the evil that was done on September the 11th can come incredible good. And it's happening.

So my job as the President is to rally—rally the spirit of the Nation, and to thank those who are integrally involved in helping people help themselves. I want to thank John again for such a kind invitation. I am so honored that you would invite me, a Texan—[*laughter*]—to come right here to L.A. and to herald what is possible.

You know, we live in a great country—I mean, the greatest country on the face of the Earth. I'm proud of America. I'm proud of our country. I'm proud of what we stand for. Oh, I know there's pockets of despair. That just means we've got to work harder. It means you can't quit. That means we've got to rout it out with love and compassion and decency. But this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And it is such an honor to be the President of such a great land.

Thank you all for coming today. May God bless you. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:01 p.m. in the Media Center at the First African Methodist Episcopal Renaissance Center. In his remarks, he referred to John Bryant, founder, chairman of the board, and chief executive officer, Operation HOPE, Inc.; Juanita Smith, Mr. Bryant's mother; Rev. Cecil L. Murray, senior minister, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles; John W. Mack, president, Los Angeles Urban League; Charles Kim, executive director, Korean American Coalition, Los Angeles; Antonia Hernandez, president and general counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Mayor James K. Hahn of Los Angeles; and Lou Dantzler, president and chief executive officer, Challengers Boys & Girls Club.

## Remarks at a Dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Los Angeles

*April 29, 2002*

Thank you all very much. It is a high honor to be back in the great State of California. I am honored to be speaking in front of so many folks who are here for a common purpose, and that is to see to it that this good man, Bill Simon, becomes the next Governor of the State of California.

I want to thank Bill and Cindy. Flying in on Air Force One today, we had a good chance to visit, to talk about our families, to talk about our shared values. And after our conversation, it was quite clear to me that both he and I married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Cindy Simon for her willingness to join Bill in this fantastic journey to become the State's next Governor. It takes a very strong wife and a good partner to be willing to make this sacrifice.

I know firsthand, because I've got a great wife. The country is beginning to see why

I asked Laura to marry me. She's calm, and she's steady; she's strong. A lot of people are still wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But I'm sorry she's not with us tonight. She's back in Washington, DC. But I am really proud of the First Lady of the United States.

I want to thank members of the congressional delegation who are here, Congressmen Rohrabacher, Issa, and Miller. I want to thank them for their friendship, and I want to thank them for joining in helping pass an agenda that is positive for all Americans. I want to thank Bill Jones—California's secretary of state is here as well. I'm not sure if Bruce McPherson's here, the Lieutenant Governor candidate, but he's a fine guy. And I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here as well.

And I want to thank you all for supporting this good man. I want to thank you for the friendship you've given him, for the contributions you make, and for your willingness to do more than just contribute, the willingness to go out and talk him up and to tell your friends and neighbors. As we say in Texas, it's coffeeshop chatter that helps somebody get elected.

I want to thank all of you who are here who are involved in grassroots politics in California. I want to thank you for your making the phone calls, for licking the envelopes, for doing all the hard work necessary to see to it that candidates can win elections.

This is a good man I'm campaigning for and a good man you're supporting. He's a fellow who's got his values straight. He's an entrepreneur with a generous heart. He loves his family, and he loves his country.

I've been reading about what some of the comments have been here in California. Some of the Democrats are saying, "This is a fellow who's never held elective office. Heck, all he's been is a successful businessman. [*Laughter*] What can he possibly know about running any organization?" [*Laughter*] Sounds familiar. Sounds like Ann Richards is advising the Davis campaign. [*Laughter*]

In 1994, the people of Texas voted for a positive vision for a great and diverse State. And that is exactly what's going to happen in the great State of California this November. This great and diverse State is going to vote for a breath of fresh air, a positive vision. This State will reject old-style politics and elect as its Governor a man who is willing to lead, a man who doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think, a man who will stand on principle, and a man who has got the courage to do what is right for the people of the State of California.

I appreciate so very much Bill's emphasis on education. As he mentioned, we just passed historic reform in Washington, DC. Let me tell you what the bill says. It says we believe every child can learn in America, and therefore, we expect high standards for every single child. The bill says that we trust the local people to make the right decisions for the children of California or Texas or any other State in the Union. The bill says that when we spend money, we expect results. And the bill says that when we confront—when we find failure, we must be courageous enough to confront it, for no child should be trapped in a school that refuses to teach and a school that refuses to change.

That is the philosophy of Bill Simon, a philosophy which will suit all the citizens of this State in good stead.

I appreciate Bill's understanding about the importance of energy for the State of California. It's hard to believe that our Nation has had no comprehensive energy plan for a long time. And as a result, the people of this State began to suffer. And so in Washington, we put together a plan that says, on the one hand, we've got to do a better job of conserving our scarce resources. And at the same time, we've got to use our vast technological know-how to develop renewable sources of energy. But it also says that for the sake of our economic security and for the sake of our national security, we must become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Bill and I know that we've got to be wise about how we explore for oil and gas in our own country. And we both believe that through technology, we can do so in an environmentally friendly way. But it's time for this State to have leadership when it comes to energy. In order for people to be able to find work, this State needs to have a Governor who understands the need to have a comprehensive energy plan, and Bill Simon is that man.

I appreciate Bill's understanding of the need to have fiscal discipline in our seats of government. And at the same time, he understands that the money we're spending is not the Government's money. The money we spend, whether it be in Washington or Sacramento, is the people's money.

I remember campaigning right here in this room, and I said if I was fortunate enough to become the President, I would go to Washington, DC, and insist that we return some of the people's money back to them. For the good of the entrepreneurial spirit in America, we let them keep more money. For the good of small business growth, people should keep more money. For the good of encouraging people to be able to realize their dreams, they ought to be able to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. And fortunately, Congress listened, and the tax cut we passed came at the exact right time.

I heard some of them talking up there about, "Well, you know, we need to raise taxes," or "We've got to stop the tax relief." They're reading the wrong textbook, as far as I'm concerned. I don't know what course they took, but what America should not do is, in the face of economic difficulties, raise the taxes on the people. What America must do is trust people with their own money. And Bill Simon understands that as well as anybody who's running for office in America today.

He's a good man with a good agenda for everybody who lives in the State of California. When he wins, he's going to be the Governor of everybody. Doesn't matter whether somebody voted for him or not; this good man will represent the best interests of all the people of this important State.

We've got a lot on our agenda in Washington. We're talking about trade promotion authority, and that's incredibly important, to be able to open up markets. Listen, the State of California benefits when we trade. And I hope Congress finally gets me a trade promotion authority. I hope Congress finally gets me an energy bill. I hope Congress acts. But there's nothing more important than making sure we defend the homeland of the United States of America.

I have the high honor of walking in the Oval Office every morning that I'm in Washington. I'm an early morning guy, and I've got an interesting routine. I get up and get the First Lady a little coffee—[*laughter*]—sometimes I read the headlines of the newspapers—[*laughter*]—rarely do I read the editorial pages—[*laughter*]—in all due respect; take the dogs out. And Spot, the dog who is now 13, born to Millie at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, joins me in the Oval Office. Barney, the 1½-year-old Scottish terrier, is not allowed in. [*Laughter*] After all, we've got a beautiful new rug. [*Laughter*]

But I sit at this fantastic desk called the H.M.S. *Resolute* desk. It's a desk that Theodore Roosevelt had used and Franklin Roosevelt had used. President Kennedy used it. You might remember the picture of John-John Kennedy looking out from the door at the desk. And I sit there in this beautiful sanctuary of democracy and read a threat assessment. Every morning, I see a compilation of intelligence about what the enemies may or may not do. And it reminds me of the most solemn task I have, and that is to protect innocent Americans from further attack.

And make no mistake about it, the people we're dealing with are nothing but cold-blooded killers. I can't put it any more plainly, and we're going to deal with them as such.

You need to know our country is doing a heck of a lot better job of sharing intelligence. Anytime we get a whiff of somebody thinking about doing something to us, we react. We react within the confines of the United States Constitution, but we react. We chase down every single lead there is. There's great cooperation now—or better cooperation now between our CIA and the FBI and much better cooperation between the Federal Government and the State government and local authorities.

At the same time that we're chasing down every single lead, we're also making the homeland more secure. The budget I've submitted to Congress has got a significant increase in monies available for border security, for a response to bioterrorism, monies for our bold and brave first-responders, the police, the fire, and the EMS teams all across America. No, we're active, and we're serious. But the surest way to protect the homeland is to chase these killers down, one by one,

and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I oftentimes think about what was going through the minds of the Al Qaida killers. They must have taken a look at America and said, "This nation is so self-absorbed and so materialistic and so self-centered and so weak that all they would do would be to file a lawsuit." [*Laughter*] They were wrong. They have learned firsthand that when it comes to defending our freedoms, our Nation is strong, united, and resolved. And we're making good progress, thanks to a fantastic coalition of nations that heard the call, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists." And a lot of nations have made the right choice.

And they also learned firsthand that when it comes to defending freedoms, we're plenty tough, because of a fantastic United States military. For those of you who have got relatives in the military, you thank them on behalf of a grateful Commander in Chief. And I thank you for supporting them.

I submitted a budget to the United States Congress that significantly increases our defense spending. I did so for two reasons: One, that any time we put a soldier in harm's way, he or she deserves the best training, the best equipment, the best possible pay; and secondly, I submitted a significant budget because I wanted the world and our coalition and the enemy to realize we're in this battle for the long pull. I don't have a calendar on my desk, that beautiful desk, that says, "By such-and-such a date, you will be finished." That's not how I think. I think that whatever it takes, no matter how long it takes, I will lead this Nation to defend freedom against terrorist killers.

But the spirit of this Nation is so strong and powerful, and the world has got to know and the youth of America must know that this great Nation doesn't seek revenge. There's no revenge in our heart. We seek justice. And when we rid—when we got rid of the most—one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, the Taliban, we didn't go to that country as conquerors; we went as liberators. I want you all to remember that for the first time, many young girls were able to go to school, thanks to the United States of America.

The first phase ended with the Taliban out. Oh, some of them are hiding in caves, but there's no cave dark enough to hide from the United States of America. The second phase is to make sure that Al Qaida can't bunch up anywhere else, that they can't use a weak country as a training base or a place to recruit or a place to operate—from which to operate. And we're making good progress there. When the United States stays strong and steady, the world looks for our leadership. And that's the way it's going to be.

So we're in this for the long pull, and America understands that. I can't tell you how grateful I am to be the President of a nation that is so united and so resolved and so strong and so willing to defend that which we hold dear to our hearts, our freedom.

You know, history has called our Nation into action. It's a unique moment. And we've responded mightily, and we will continue to respond, much to the chagrin of the enemy. If America goes to sleep, the rest of the world is in trouble. If we blink, the rest of the world will close their eyes. So we're not blinking, and we're not going to sleep.

This war against terror is bigger than one person or one organization. You've heard me talk about nations which harbor weapons of mass destruction. Let me repeat again: We owe it to our children and our children's—and our children's children to make sure that some of the worst nations in the world are never able to blackmail America and our friends and our allies with the worst kind of weapons.

It is essential that we remain strong. It's essential that we defend freedom. And as we do, out of this incredible evil done to America can come some really good things.

I truly believe that if we lead in a strong and resolute way, we can achieve peace in the world. My dream is for the world to be peaceful in parts—in regions where people have lost hope for peace. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I believe we can achieve peace between India and Pakistan. I believe, by being constant and vigilant and tough against terror, we will achieve peace. And therefore, out of the evil done to us on September the 11th will come incredible good for the world.

And here at home, we have a chance to show the world what we're made out of. I mean, we're more than just a military. We're more than just an economic engine. We're a nation of incredibly compassionate and decent people. We are one nation, under God. We're a nation that believes no matter where you're raised or where you're from, no matter what your religion may be, you can succeed in America. And that's an important message for people around the world to continue to hear.

But we can do more than that. If you're interested in fighting evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you're interested in standing strong against those who attacked us, mentor a child. Go to your church or synagogue or mosque and rally good people to feed the homeless. There are pockets of despair in America, and we must deal with those pockets not only with money but with compassion and decency and love. The Boys and Girls Clubs or the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts or Big Brothers and Big Sisters are all part of this great fabric of America which shows our true compassion and kindness and decency.

Today I had the honor of going to south central Los Angeles, and I was in a room full of people from different religions and different races. But I was so proud to be in a room bound by one common dream, and that is to extend the hope of America through every neighborhood, not only in Los Angeles but all across America. No, out of this evil done to us is going to come some great good, because we're a great nation.

You know, I also believe that what happened to us on September the 11th is beginning to change our culture in America. The culture for years has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I see a different culture emerging. It's one that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. Each of us are responsible for loving our children with all our heart and all our soul. There's a responsibility era. It says that if you're a citizen in America, you have a responsibility to help a neighbor in need. If you're running a corporation, you have a responsibility to be honest with your employees and your shareholders.

There's a new culture emerging. And perhaps it was best defined by what took place on Flight 93. On September the 11th, people were flying from one city to the next. They were told on the telephones that somebody was attacking America. They realized their plane had become a weapon. They told their loved ones on the phone that they loved them. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they made the ultimate sacrifice. They drove the plane in the ground to save other people's lives. It's the ultimate act of personal responsibility.

In this country, people are beginning to realize that serving something greater than yourself in life is important. It's an important part of our society. And it's an important part of being a whole person. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good. And the reason why is because we are such a good nation.

People say they pray for me and my family, and for those of you who do, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I want to tell you that it is an unimaginable honor to be the President of this great land. It is amazing feeling, to be able to represent the greatest people on the face of the Earth. I want to thank you for that honor. I want to thank you for supporting a good man to become the next Governor of the State of California.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:25 p.m. in the Los Angeles Ballroom at the Westin Century Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas; and Gov. Gray Davis of California.

## Remarks on Compassionate Conservatism in San Jose, California

*April 30, 2002*

Well, thank you very much for that warm welcome. I am so grateful for the Commonwealth Club and the Churchill Club for inviting me here. I appreciate you all coming, and I appreciate your hospitality. I want to thank Dr. Gloria Duffy for her generous introduction and for her invitation. I want to thank Silvia Fernandez, who's the president of the

Churchill Club, for joining the Commonwealth Club to host this event. I want to thank all the elected officials who are here. I want to thank my fellow citizens for coming.

Whenever I visit California, I'm impressed by the beauty of this State and by the spirit of the people. Because of its size, the health of the California economy influences every American. And California has got a culture of optimism and energy that touches all of us as well. This is a vital and a vibrant place, and I'm glad to be back.

The last time I visited San Jose, the Silicon Valley was still in an economic boom, and America was at peace. For many in this valley and across our country, those times are a world away. After a recession made worse by a national emergency, we have seen some good news. Our economy is beginning to grow. Just last week, we had the good news about strong growth in the first quarter. Yet, this vital region reminds us that a lot of work remains to be done.

Business investment and job creation are not what they should be. We cannot be content with one quarter's news. We cannot be complacent. My attitude is that we'll let the statisticians talk about the numbers, but so long as somebody who wants to work can't find work, that's a problem for America. We have a great task ahead of us. We must turn our short-term recovery into long-lasting expansion that reaches every part of our country.

Our economy grows when trade barriers fall. I ask the Senate to join the United States House of Representatives in giving me what's called trade promotion authority. It's important to be a confident country, and I'm confident in the ability of American entrepreneurs and producers to compete in the world. I'm confident that our farmers and ranchers can compete in the world. And I know American technology companies are the best in the world. And we must open new markets so they can sell to the world.

Our economy grows when the tax burden goes down and stays down. Much of the growth we have seen this quarter is the result of consumer spending, fueled by well-timed tax deductions. To encourage growth in job creation, we must protect the lower tax rates we've enacted, and we must make them permanent. And to make sure there is economic vitality around our country, our Government must control its appetite for excessive spending.

Our economy grows when entrepreneurs are rewarded for their success, not hounded by regulations and needless litigation. We must enact reforms that free entrepreneurs from pointless regulation and endless litigation. And to restore trust in our economy, corporate leaders must be held to the highest ethical standards.

And as your State knows, our economy grows when we have steady, stable, and affordable sources of energy. In Washington, we must adopt—finally adopt—a comprehensive strategy to conserve more, to produce more, and to deliver the energy that keeps our economy running. Both Houses have passed a energy—passed energy legislation. I expect them to get a bill to my desk soon, for the good of American economy and American jobs. By acting in the above way, we confirm that the role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create the conditions for economic growth.

Since I was last here, America has also accepted a great challenge in the world: to wage a relentless and systematic campaign against global terror. The security of the American people is the central commitment of the American Government. We are in for a long and difficult war. It will be conducted on many fronts, but as long as it takes, we will prevail.

In the first phase of our military operation, American and coalition forces have liberated—have liberated—the people of Afghanistan from a barbaric regime. Our Armed Forces performed with skill and success and honor. A regime has fallen, terrorists in that country are now scattered, and the children of Afghanistan have returned to school, boys and girls. Our work in that country is not over. We are helping the Afghan people to rebuild their nation. And in every cave, in every dark corner of that country, we will hunt down the killers and bring them to justice.

We have entered the next phase of the war with a sustained international effort to rout out terrorists in other countries and deny Al

Qaida the chance to regroup in other places. Across the world, governments have heard this message: You're either with us, or you're with the terrorists.

And for the long-term security of America and civilization itself, we must confront the great threat of biological and chemical and nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists or hostile regimes. We will not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten America or our friends and allies with the world's most destructive weapons.

History has called us to these responsibilities, and we accept them. America has always had a special mission to defend justice and advance freedom around the world. Whatever the difficulties ahead, we are confident about the outcome of this struggle. Tyranny and terror and lawless violence will not decide the world's future. As Ronald Reagan said and as every generation of Americans has believed, "the future belongs to the free."

In a time of war, we reassert the essential values and beliefs of our country. In the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln pointed toward a new birth of freedom. Leading America in a global war, Franklin D. Roosevelt defined the four freedoms: freedom of speech and religion, freedom from fear and want. Whenever America fights for the security of our country, we also fight for the values of our country. In our time, we will defend the land we love, and we will act on the ideals that gave it birth.

In America, we've not always lived up to our ideals, yet we always reach for them. We believe that everyone deserves a chance, that everyone has value, that no insignificant person was ever born. We believe that all are diminished when any are hopeless. We are one people, committed to building a single nation of justice and opportunity.

America rejects bigotry. America rejects—[*applause*]—we reject every act of hatred against people of Arab background or Muslim faith. We reject the ancient evil of anti-Semitism, whether it is practiced by the killers of Daniel Pearl or by those who burn synagogues in France. America values and welcomes peaceful people of all faiths, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and many others. Every faith is practiced and protected here, because we are one country. Every immigrant can be fully and equally American, because we're one country. Race and color should not divide us, because America is one country.

These American ideals of opportunity and equality come to us across the generations, and they have attracted millions from across the world. Yet, there are young Americans growing up here, under this flag, who doubt the promise and justice of our country. They live in neighborhoods occupied by gangs and ruled by fear. They are entitled by law to an education, yet do not receive an education. They hear talk of opportunity and see little evidence of opportunity around them.

Every American must believe in the promise of America, and to reach this noble, necessary goal, there is a role for Government. America doesn't need more big Government, and we've learned that more money is not always the answer. If a program is failing to serve people, it makes little difference if we spend twice as much or half as much. The measure of true compassion is results.

Yet we cannot have an indifferent Government, either. We are a generous and caring people. We don't believe in a sink-or-swim society. The policies of our Government must heed the universal call of all faiths to love a neighbor as we would want to be loved ourselves. We need a different approach than either big Government or indifferent Government. We need a Government that is focused, effective, and close to the people, a Government that does a few things and does them well.

Government cannot solve every problem, but it can encourage people and communities to help themselves and to help one another. Often the truest kind of compassion is to help citizens build lives of their own. I call my philosophy and approach compassionate conservatism. It is compassionate to actively help our fellow citizens in need. It is conservative to insist on responsibility and on results. And with this hopeful approach, we can make a real difference in people's lives.

Compassionate conservatism places great hope and confidence in public education. Our economy depends on higher and higher skills, requiring every American to have the

basic tools of learning. Every public school should be the path of upward mobility.

Yet, sadly enough, many are the dead end of dreams. Public schools are some of the most important institutions of democracy. They take children of every background, from every part of the world, and prepare them for the obligations and opportunities of a free society. Public schools are Americans great hope, and making them work for every child is America's great duty.

The new education reforms we have passed in Washington give the Federal Government a new role in public education. Schools must meet new and high standards of performance in reading and math that will be proven on tests and posted on the Internet for parents and everyone to see. And we're giving local schools and teachers unprecedented freedom and resources and training to meet these goals.

It is conservative to let local communities chart their own path to excellence. It is compassionate to insist that every child learns, so that no child is left behind. By insisting on results and challenging failure where we find it, we'll make an incredible difference in the lives of every child in America.

Compassionate conservatism offers a new vision for fighting poverty in America. For decades, our Nation has devoted enormous resources to helping the poor, with some great successes to show for it: basic medical care for those in need; a better life for elderly Americans. However, for millions of younger Americans, welfare became a static and destructive way of life.

In 1996, we began transforming welfare with time limits and job training and work requirements. And the Nation's welfare rolls have been cut by more than half. But even more importantly, many lives have been dramatically improved.

One former welfare recipient here in California—happened to be a mother of a chronically ill child and the victim of domestic violence—describes her experience upon leaving welfare. She said, "I feel like an adult again. I have my dignity back."

We need to continue to fully transform welfare in America. As Congress takes up welfare reform again in the coming weeks, we must strengthen the work requirements that prevent dependency and despair. Millions of Americans once on welfare are finding that a job is more than a source of income; it is a source of dignity. And by helping people find work, by helping them prepare for work, we practice compassion.

Welfare reform must also, wherever possible, encourage the commitments of family. Not every child has two devoted parents at home—I understand that. And not every marriage can or should be saved, but the evidence shows that strong marriages are good for children. When a couple on welfare wants to break bad patterns and start or strengthen a marriage, we should help local groups give them counseling that teaches commitment and respect. By encouraging family, we practice compassion.

In overcoming poverty and dependence, we must also promote the work of charities and community groups and faith-based institutions. These organizations, such as shelters for battered women or mentoring programs for fatherless children or drug treatment centers, inspire hope in a way that Government never can. Often, they inspire life-changing faith in a way that Government never should.

Our Government should view the good Americans who work in faith-based charities as partners, not rivals. We must provide new incentives for charitable giving, and when it comes to providing Federal resources to effective programs, we should not discriminate against private and religious groups.

I urge the Senate to pass the Faith-Based Initiative for the good of America. It is compassionate to aggressively fight poverty in America. It is conservative to encourage work and community spirit and responsibility and the values that often come from faith. And with this approach, we can change lives one soul at a time and make a real difference in the lives of our citizens.

The same principles of compassion and responsibility apply when America offers assistance to other nations. Nearly half of the world's people still live on less than $2 a day. When we help them, we show our values, our belief in universal human dignity; we serve our interests and gain economic partners. And by helping the developing nations of the world, we offer an alternative to resentment and conflict and terror.

Yet, the old way of pouring vast amounts of money into development aid without any concern for results has failed, often leaving behind misery and poverty and corruption. America's offering a new compact for global development. Greater aid contributions from America must be and will be linked to greater responsibility from developing nations.

I have proposed a 50-percent increase in our core development assistance over the next 3 budget years, money that will be placed in a new Millennium Challenge Account. At the end of this 3-year period, the level of our annual development assistance will be $5 billion higher than current levels.

This is a record amount of spending. And in return for these funds, we expect nations to rout out corruption, to open their markets, to respect human rights, and to adhere to the rule of law. And these are the keys to progress in any nation, and they will be the conditions for any new American aid.

It is compassionate to increase our international aid. It is conservative to require the hard reforms that lead to prosperity and independence. And with this approach, we'll make a real difference in the lives of people around the world.

Compassionate conservatism guides my administration in many other areas. Our health care policies must help low-income Americans to buy health insurance they choose, they own, and they control. Our environmental policy set high standards for stewardship while allowing local cooperation and innovation to meet those standards. Our housing programs moved beyond rental assistance to the pride and stability of homeownership. Our reforms in Social Security must allow and encourage and help working Americans to build up their own asset base and achieve independence for their retirement years.

All of these policies and all of these areas serve the same vision. We are using an active Government to promote self-government. We're encouraging individuals and communities and families to take more and more responsibility for themselves, for their neighbors, for our Nation. The aim of these policies is not to spend more money or spend less money; it is to spend on what works.

The measure of compassion is more than good intentions; it is good results. Sympathy is not enough. We need solutions in America, and we know where solutions are found. When schools are teaching, when families are strong, when neighbors look after their neighbors, when our people have the tools and the skills and the resources they need to improve their lives, there is no problem that cannot be solved in America.

By being involved and by taking responsibility upon ourselves, we gain something else as well: We contribute to the life of our country. We become more than taxpayers and occasional voters; we become citizens—citizens, not spectators; citizens who hear the call of duty, who stand up for their beliefs, who care for their families, who control their lives, and who treat their neighbors with respect and compassion. We discover a satisfaction that is only found in service, and we show our gratitude to America and to those who came before us.

In the last 7 months, we've been tested, and the struggle of our time has revealed the spirit of our people. Since September the 11th, we have been the kind of nation our Founders had in mind, a nation of strong and confident and self-governing people. And we've been the kind of nation our fathers and mothers defended in World War II: a great and diverse country, united by common dangers and by common resolve.

We, in our time, will defend our Nation, and we will deliver our Nation's promise to all who seek it. In our war on terror, we are showing the world the strength of our country, and by our unity and tolerance and compassion, we will show the world the soul of our country.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. at Parkside Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gloria Duffy, chief executive officer, Commonwealth Club; and Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan, and later killed by his captors.

## Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Santa Clara, California

*April 30, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Well, thanks for that warm California welcome. It's great to be back in this majestic State, and it's great to see so many friends. I want to thank you all for coming. We're here for the same reason: It is important for California to have a new Governor, and Bill Simon is that man.

I'm honored to have been invited here to campaign, and I really appreciate the chance to get to know Bill a little better. He flew on Air Force One from Albuquerque over to Los Angeles yesterday, and one of the best parts of the flight is, I got to meet the future first lady of the State of California. We both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*]

Many of you have gotten to know Laura. What you didn't know is that when I asked her to marry me, she was a—didn't care for politics, didn't care for politicians. And here she is as the First Lady of the United States—thank goodness. She's doing a fabulous job. I'm really proud of her, and I love her dearly. Today she couldn't be with me here in California because she's in Arkansas, talking about the need to make sure that we have early childhood education in every neighborhood, in every State, all across the country.

I want to thank Richard Pombo, who's here. He's a Member of the United States House of Representatives from the great State of California. Richard, thank you for coming. I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here. I want to thank all of you all for helping this good man.

There are some people in this audience who are the grassroots activists here in California. I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank you for dialing phones. I want to thank you for stuffing envelopes. I want to thank you for being foot soldiers so people like me and Bill can run and win and do our jobs.

In our audience today, we've got a brave soul named Dorothy Garcia. Her husband was on Flight 93. His name was Andy. The reason I bring that up is that Flight 93 really, in many ways, epitomized the best of America: Average citizens just doing their job, who heard that America was under attack; they told their loved ones goodbye; they said a prayer; and they made the ultimate sacrifice so others could live. And for that, our Nation is incredibly grateful—grateful for the sacrifice and grateful for the example that Andy and others set for future generations. Dorothy, I'm so honored you're here, and thank you for coming.

I appreciate so very much Bill and Cindy's values. They love their family, and that's good. They love their State, and they love their country.

I've been somewhat amazed about—reading some of the clips on the way out here about what Bill's—the supporters of Bill's opponent are saying. It kind of runs this way: He's never held elective office—[*laughter*]—he's only been a successful businessman; how could he possibly be the Governor of a big and diverse State? It sounds like to me that Governor Davis is getting his advice from Ann Richards. [*Laughter*] In '94, I showed up, and I laid out a positive vision of where I wanted to lead my State. I rejected the old-style politics, and that's exactly what Bill Simon is going to do here in California.

I am proud to support this new face in American politics. I'm proud to support somebody who doesn't need to take a poll or to have a focus group to tell him what he believes. And I want to thank you all for joining us to effect a positive change, not just for Republicans but for everybody who lives in the State of California.

I appreciate so very much Bill's emphasis on issues that matter to everybody, starting with education. I gave a speech a little earlier here in the Silicon Valley, and I talked about the hope and promise of public education. It is so important that we get our public education right in America. The public education system in America is one of the most important foundations of our democracy. After all, it is where children from all over America learn to be responsible citizens and learn to have the skills necessary to take advantage of our fantastic, opportunistic society. And yet, we have failed in our public school system for too many children.

As Bill mentioned, I had the honor of signing historic education reform that set high

standards for every child in America, not just a few, not just people from suburban California or suburban Texas, but every single child. We believe every child can learn in America. And in that bill we incorporate a uniquely Republican principle that says, we trust the local people to chart the path for excellence for the citizens and children of California. I understand and Bill understands, all wisdom does not reside in Washington, DC, that if you're interested in achieving educational excellence, we've got to trust the people of California to chart the path for educational excellence. That's why it's important this man become your Governor.

But in this bill as well—and what makes it different from the past is, we're now saying, if you receive any Federal help—and there's Federal help, particularly for Title I students—you'd better teach them. In return for help, you show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract. You administer tests to show us, and you put the tests on the Internet for everybody to see. And when we find success, we will praise success. But when we find failure, we need to challenge failure. When we find children in schools that will not teach and will not change, you better have you a Governor that is willing to challenge the status quo. It is essential that we educate every child in America and that not one child be left behind.

I appreciate Bill's commonsense view of energy. This Nation needs an energy policy. We haven't had an energy policy for a long period of time. Finally, they got one bill passed out of the House, and they've got one coming out of the Senate. Now they need to get together and get the bill to my desk. And here's what it basically says. It says, we can use technology to develop renewable sources of energy, which we will. It says, we must do a better job of conserving energy, which we must. But it also says, in an environmentally friendly way, we can find more energy in our country. And that's important. It's important not only for the economic security of people looking for work; it is important for the national security of the United States of America. We import over 50 percent of our oil from overseas, and a lot of those countries don't particularly care for us. And you need to have a Governor who's got a vision about energy, if you expect this State to grow and if people want to find work.

And I appreciate Bill's view of taxing and—the taxes and budget. I remember campaigning in the Silicon Valley, and I said, "If you give me a chance, I'm going to cut the—work to cut the taxes." And thankfully, we did. And we did so right at the right time.

There's a difference of opinion in our political system, and that's good. It basically boils down to an understanding of whose money we're talking about when we talk about budgeting and spending money. See Bill and I understand, when we're talking about taxpayers' money, it's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. When you let people keep more of their own money, it is not only good for our economy; it is good to help people realize their dreams.

There are so many fantastic stories of the entrepreneurial spirit here in California. I've been impressed by some amazing statistics, like the number of Hispanic-owned small businesses. When you cut the taxes, when you reduce the tax burden, you encourage the growth of small businesses. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. They pay taxes on the individual—through the individual system, and by cutting tax rates, we encourage entrepreneurial growth and ownership in California and in America.

And we need to hold the line on spending. Bill understands that in California, and we need to hold the line on spending in Washington, DC. We've got a temporary deficit, and there's a reason. We had a recession and a national emergency. But the best way to make sure the deficit is small and temporary is for the United States Congress not to spend excessively. That's why the President has been given a veto.

I remember in Chicago they said to me, "Would you ever have deficit spending?" I said, "Only if there was a war or a national emergency or a recession." Never did I realize we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But this country is ready to handle—we're ready to handle the slowdown in the economy. And I understand people are hurting here in the Silicon Valley. I've seen the statistics that the

economy grew at over 5 percent in the first quarter. That's fine. We'll let the number crunchers talk about numbers like that. So long as people can't find work, I'm worried. So long as somebody who wants to work can't find a job, it's got my attention. And so the best way to make sure our economy grows is to make our tax cuts permanent, so there's certainty in the Tax Code; is to promote free and fair trade all around the world; and is to have an energy plan that makes sense for America. And we're making progress on the economy, and we're making progress on making sure our homeland is more secure.

Cindy asked me to tell this story, which I told last night, so I will. It is—well, first of all, it's an unimaginable honor to be able to go to work in the Oval Office. It is a beautiful place. It is a powerful reminder of the greatness of our country. I treat it like a shrine.

My job is to take the dogs downstairs first thing in the morning. We've got kind of an early morning White House. I try to show up right before 7 o'clock every morning. And so Spot, who is—not a very imaginative name, I admit it, but nevertheless—[*laughter*]—was born in the White House, by the way. She's 13 years old. She's quite familiar with the grounds. She walks out, as does Barney. Barney's the 1½-year-old terrier. Now Barney, he doesn't get to go in the Oval Office first thing in the morning, because the rug is new. [*Laughter*] But Spot and I walk in. Barney goes off with the gardeners, chasing squirrels or something.

And I sit there at this fantastic desk, called the H.M.S. *Resolute*. Perhaps you remember the picture of John-John Kennedy putting his head out of the door of that desk with his dad. I think his dad was making a phone call or gazing out to the beautiful South Grounds. I remember Edmund Morris, who wrote "Theodore Rex," walked in to give me a copy of his book. And he said, "Teddy Roosevelt used that desk." The door that John-John Kennedy put his head out of the desk is there because Franklin Roosevelt had put that door on his desk to cover his infirmities. It's been used by a lot of Presidents.

And I sit at this majestic piece of furniture and read a threat assessment every morning, that the killers still want to hurt America. It's a daily reminder that my most important job is to protect the American people. We're still vulnerable, because we're a huge nation, big borders. But we're less vulnerable.

You need to know that we share information like never before. Anytime we get any kind of hint, any evidence whatsoever that somebody may try to do something to America, we're reacting. We're following every single lead. We've got better coordination with our intelligence gathering and the FBI and law enforcement at home. We're buttoning up America the way you'd want us to, within the confines of the United States Constitution. We're doing a better job of coordinating efforts with our brave police and firefighters and EMS; they're called first-responders. We're going to do a better job of reforming the INS so that we've got better border security in the United States. We've got an initiative and a strategy to deal with bioterrorism, should it come. We're working hard, and a lot of good folks are working endless hours to protect the American citizens. But the surest way to protect America is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, and that is what we're going to do.

I have submitted a budget that makes our defense a priority, and I expect the United States Congress to pass the defense appropriations bill early, rather than late, and not play politics with defense appropriations. It is a big increase, because anytime we put our soldiers in harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay possible.

And it's also a big increase because it is indicative of the fact that we're in this for the long pull. There is no calendar on my desk that says, "By such-and-such a date, you will quit." There is no timeframe, artificial timeframe. When it comes to defending the freedom of the United States, America, we will do whatever it takes, no matter how long it takes. Others may grow tired, but I'm not.

I am so honored by our hard work of our Secretary of State and my national security team—by the way, one of whom is doing great, named Condoleezza Rice, came right out of this part of the world. Thank goodness she's there and not at Stanford. [*Laughter*] Nothing wrong with Stanford, but America

is better off with her leading our National Security Council.

We've got this coalition together because we said loud and clear, "Either you're with us, or you're with the terrorists." And I meant it. I meant that. I also said that if you harbor a terrorist and feed one, you're just as guilty as the killers. And the Taliban found out exactly what the United States of America meant.

As we talk about this war, it's really important to remind young Americans—and all Americans, for that matter—that this country does not seek revenge; we seek justice; and that we've got to be proud not only of the fact that we're defending our freedoms, but we went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. And for the first time, many young girls were able to go to school, thanks to the United States of America.

You just need to know, it's still a dangerous period in Afghanistan. There's still a lot of killers roaming around, and they hate America. Listen, they hate us because we're free. They cannot stand the thought that we have freedom of religion in America, that we respect each other based upon our personal religious beliefs. They cannot stand the thought that there's honest political discourse. There's free press—I'm confident they hate that. They hate us. And so, wherever they try to hide, we're going to get them. There's no cave dark enough or deep enough from the United States of America. We are a patient country; we are a united country; we're plenty tough when we have to be tough. You know, I can't imagine what went through their minds. They must have thought—they must have fallen prey to this notion that America was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so selfish, so essentially weak, that all we were going to do when they attacked was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They found out we think differently.

Not only are we going to make sure we help secure Afghanistan; we will help rebuild Afghanistan. We not only want the world to be more secure; we want the world to be better. The second phase of the war is to deny sanctuary and training grounds to any Al Qaida organization, and we're doing a pretty good job of that. Yemen, for example, is a country with which we work to make sure that they don't get to bunch up in Yemen and start over. In other words, by denying sanctuary, we're treating them as they need to be treated, as international criminals, as coldblooded killers.

But this war is more than just one person; it's more than about one organization. You see, there are regimes that—governments, not just organizations, that can't stand what we believe in, who develop and harbor and hold some of the worst weapons in the world. And for the sake of our children and for the sake of our children's children and for the sake of our friends and allies, we must—and we will—not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to possess and threaten us and blackmail us with the world's most dangerous weapons.

I'm proud of our military. I'm proud of our country. We send such a strong signal to the world when we're united and resolved and determined. See, if we blink, everybody else goes to sleep. History has called us into action. History has laid the mantle of responsibility for peace squarely on our shoulders. I accept that responsibility, and so does the American people.

I'm an optimistic person. I truly believe that out of this evil will come some incredible good. I believe by being firm and tough and routing out terror, the world will be more peaceful. I long for peace. I want our children to grow up in a peaceful world. I want there to be hope where hope has been diminished around the world, and we must not, and we will not, let terrorism rule the world. No, by being tough and strong and diligent, this world, thanks to the leadership of the United States of America, is going to be a more peaceful place, and I think at home, we can be a more compassionate place as well.

People say to me, "You know, Mr. President, what can I do in the war against terror?" My answer is, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you want to fight evil, do some good. It doesn't take much. I talked about the ultimate sacrifice of serving something greater than yourself. But you can serve something greater than yourself by mentoring a child. You can serve something greater than yourself by

feeding the homeless. You can serve something greater than yourself by just walking across the street to a shut-in and saying, "I love you. Is there anything I can do to make your day better?" If you want to fight evil, do some good.

And there's all kinds of opportunities. We've got the USA Freedom Corps for old and young alike who want to volunteer. We've got a Peace Corps that we're going to expand and send around—double the size of the Peace Corps. There's all kinds of opportunities. In my State—in my State—my speech in front of the Congress, I said, "Why don't—if you want to help, dedicate 4,000 hours of your life from this point forward to help a neighbor in need." And it's happening.

I truly believe out of the evil will come a new culture of personal responsibility, one that says—that stands in contrast, by the way, to a period of time that said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." There's a new culture that's coming around that says, "I'm responsible for the decisions I make in life. I'm responsible for loving my family. I'm responsible for loving my neighbor." And to make that responsibility era full, if you're running a company in America, you have responsibility to be honest and open with your shareholders and your employees as well. It's happening, and it's happening in this country because the strength of America is not in the halls of our governments; the strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of incredibly decent and kind and compassionate Americans.

No, out of evil will come incredible good. The world will not only be more peaceful, but this world will show the true face—this country will show the world the true face of America, a welcoming society, a society that says that the American Dream belongs to all, a society that's willing to tackle the pockets of despair and hopelessness with love and compassion and decency. Out of the evil done on September the 11th, we will show the world the true nature of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank you all for coming to support this good man, and thank you for giving me the honor of being the President of the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B at the Santa Clara Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of gubernatorial candidate William "Bill" Simon; Gov. Gray Davis of California; and former Gov. Ann Richards of Texas.

## Proclamation 7548—Law Day, U.S.A., 2002

*April 30, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

One of our Nation's greatest strengths is its commitment to a just, fair legal system and the protection it affords to the rights and freedoms we cherish. On May 1, we observe Law Day to draw attention to the principles of justice and the practice of law. The theme of this year's Law Day, "Celebrate Your Freedom: Assuring Equal Justice for All," acknowledges the essential task of protecting the rights of every American.

When disputes or conflicts arise, or when persons are charged with violating the law, resolution often occurs within the legal system. Consultation with an attorney is a common first step in this process. Attorneys advise clients of their rights and obligations, suggest possible courses of action, and help their clients to understand legal procedures. Attorneys are zealous advocates on behalf of their clients, helping to ensure that each one receives full and fair representation before the courts. Bar associations and other attorney groups play an important role in maintaining the integrity of our legal system by overseeing admission to the bar and setting standards of discipline for those who practice law.

Our Founding Fathers believed that a strong and independent judiciary was a cornerstone of democracy. Judges must be men and women of skill, discernment, experience, and character who meet the highest standards of training, temperament, and impartiality. They must understand and honor the powers granted to them under the Constitution, as well as the limits on those powers. In criminal matters, judges help to ensure that the innocent remain free and the guilty

are appropriately punished. In civil disputes, judges' decisions help to safeguard the stability of the commercial marketplace and address the grievances of wronged parties. Judges are called upon daily to render decisions that are based upon the law and facts of each case, without regard for popular opinion or political or other extraneous pressures.

Our forefathers imagined a well-qualified judiciary put in place through a dynamic and constructive interaction between the executive and legislative branches of Government. Under our Constitution, the President selects individuals for nomination to the Federal judiciary and the Senate provides its advice and consent. In all cases, both branches of Government strive to make certain that only men and women of the highest intellect, character, integrity, judgment, and experience are appointed to serve our Nation and its citizens in these critical positions.

This Law Day, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the vital work performed by our Federal judiciary in upholding the rule of law and on the importance of a robust and independent judiciary in our system of Government.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87–20, as amended, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2002, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call upon Government officials to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:31 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

## Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Medal of Honor Posthumously to Captain Ben L. Salomon and Captain Jon E. Swanson

*May 1, 2002*

Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House, and welcome to our beautiful Rose Garden. We gather in tribute to two young men who died long ago in the service to America. In awarding the Medal of Honor to Captain Ben Salomon and Captain Jon Swanson, the United States acknowledges a debt that time has not diminished.

It's my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tony Principi; Secretary Tom White of the Army; General Eric Shinseki; General John Jumper; Brigadier General David Hicks, the chaplain—thank you, General Hicks for your prayer; Congressman Brad Sherman; Congressman Charlie Norwood; Congressman Mark Udall; World War II veterans; Vietnam veterans; fellow Americans.

Joining us in this ceremony are four men who themselves earned the Medal of Honor: Barney Barnum, Al Rascon, Ryan Thacker, and Nicky Bacon. Thank you all for coming. President Harry S. Truman said he would rather have earned the Medal of Honor than be the Commander in Chief. When you meet a veteran who wears that medal, remember the moment, because you are looking at one of the bravest ever to wear our country's uniform. We're honored to welcome these gentlemen.

I'm also pleased to welcome the family of Captain Swanson: Sandee Swanson and their daughters, Holly and Brigid. We're so glad you all are here. I know how proud you must be of the man you have loved and missed for so many years. And seeing you here today, I know that Jon would be extremely proud.

For Captain Ben Salomon, no living relatives remain to witness this moment. And even though they never met, Captain Salomon is represented today by a true friend, Dr. Robert West. Welcome, sir.

Five years ago, Dr. West was reading about his fellow alumni of the University of Southern California's dental school. He came upon the story of Ben Salomon of the class of 1937, who was a surgeon in World War

II and was posthumously nominated for the Medal of Honor. The medal was denied on a technicality. Looking into the matter, Dr. West found that an honest error had occurred and that Captain Salomon was indeed eligible to receive the Medal of Honor.

He earned it on the day he died, July the 7th, 1944. Captain Salomon was serving in the Marianas Islands as a surgeon in the 27th Infantry Division, when his battalion came under ferocious attack by thousands of Japanese soldiers. The American units sustained massive casualties, and the advancing enemy soon descended on Captain Salomon's aid station. To defend the wounded men in his care, Captain Salomon killed several enemy soldiers who had entered the aid station. As the advance continued, he ordered comrades to evacuate the tent and carry away the wounded. He went out to face the enemy alone and was last heard shouting, "I'll hold them off until you get them to safety. See you later."

In the moments that followed, Captain Salomon singlehandedly killed 98 enemy soldiers, saving many American lives but sacrificing his own. As best the Army could tell, he was shot 24 times before he fell, more than 50 times after that. And when they found his body, he was still at his gun.

No one who knew him is with us this afternoon. Yet, America will always know Benjamin Louis Salomon by the citation to be read shortly. It tells of one young man who was the match for 100, a person of true valor who now receives the honor due him from a grateful country.

The Medal of Honor recognizes acts of bravery that no superior could rightly order a soldier to perform. The courage it signifies—gallant, intrepid service at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty—is written forever in the service record of Army Captain Jon Swanson.

A helicopter pilot in the Vietnam war, Captain Swanson flew his last mission on his second tour of duty, on February 26th, 1971, over Cambodia. As allied forces on the ground came under heavy enemy fire, Captain Swanson was called in to provide close air support. Flying at treetop level, he found and engaged the enemy, exposing himself to intense fire from the ground. He ran out of heavy ordnance, yet continued to drop smoke grenades to mark other targets for nearby gunships.

Captain Swanson made it back to safety, his ammunition nearly gone and his Scout helicopter heavily damaged. Had he stayed on the ground, no one would have faulted him. But he had seen more—he had seen that more targets needed marking to eliminate the danger to the troops on the ground. He volunteered to do the job himself, flying directly into enemy fire, until his helicopter exploded in flight.

Captain Swanson's actions, said one fellow officer, "were the highest degree of personal bravery and self-sacrifice I have ever witnessed." Others agreed, and the Medal of Honor was recommended by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and by the late Admiral John McCain. However, only the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded, until a recent review of the case made clear that the Nation's highest military honor was in order. And so today, on what would have been his 60th birthday, the Medal of Honor is presented to the family of Jon Edward Swanson.

The two events we recognize today took place a generation apart, but they represent the same tradition. That tradition of military valor and sacrifice has preserved our country and continues to this day. Captain Salomon and Captain Swanson never lived to wear this medal, but they will be honored forever in the memory of our country.

And now, Commander Reynolds, will you please read the citations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Department of the Army. Following the President's remarks, Lt. Comdr. Steve Reynolds, USCG, Coast Guard Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.

## Memorandum on Emergency Military Assistance to Afghanistan

*April 27, 2002*

Presidential Determination No. 2002–18

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense*

*Subject:* Determination to (1) Waive Section 512 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115) and Section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended to Provide Assistance to Afghanistan and (2) Authorize a Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, to Provide Emergency Military Assistance to Afghanistan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 512 of the Kenneth M. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–115)(FOAA) and sections 506(a)(1) and 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1) (FAA), I hereby determine that:

(1) assistance to Afghanistan is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) an unforeseen emergency exists that requires immediate military assistance to the Government of Afghanistan for purposes of training and equipping the Afghan national armed forces; and the emergency requirement cannot be met under the authority of the Arms Export Control Act or any other law except section 506(a)(1) of the FAA.

Accordingly, I hereby waive section 512 of the FOAA and section 620(q) of the FAA with respect to assistance to Afghanistan. Further, I hereby direct the drawdown of up to $2 million of defense articles, services, and training from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense for military assistance for Afghanistan.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

## Proclamation 7549—Loyalty Day, 2002

*April 30, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Ours is a Nation of people who demonstrate their patriotic loyalty through service to our country. Whether born on American soil or abroad, Americans appreciate patriotism and loyalty to our country. President Woodrow Wilson said, "Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice." Americans affirmed this sense of loyalty for their homeland during and following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Brave rescuers died while saving others. Passengers on a hijacked airplane gave their lives to prevent the deaths of fellow Americans. Americans pledged to fight terrorism, both here and across the globe.

Since that tragic day, citizens across our country overwhelmingly gave their time and resources to help those in need. These countless expressions of patriotism reflect an inspiring devotion to our fellow citizens and our Nation.

For our military personnel, loyalty and dedication is a way of life. The men and women of our Armed Forces embody loyalty as they work to protect our ideals. Throughout our history, America's military has heroically defended our country and its founding principles of freedom and democracy. Today, our military is again responding to the call of duty with courage and pride. These brave individuals who risk their lives fighting terror honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the American people.

Our Constitution speaks of forming "a more perfect Union," and Americans have

always responded to this call with commitment and character. Brave citizens have fought to abolish slavery, to extend voting rights to all our citizens, and to uphold civil rights. The struggle to improve our Nation also takes place on an individual level, one person at a time. Men and women of all ages and from all over the country work every day to help others in need. Through families, community groups, and places of worship, Americans give of themselves to help others realize a brighter future.

Our loyalty to American democracy and freedom is born of pride, appreciation, and understanding of our country. We are loyal to America, our fellow citizens, and these ideals. Loyalty Day provides an opportunity to recognize those who demonstrate their commitment to our country through service and sacrifice. These individuals serve as a model for all Americans.

The Congress, by Public Law 85–529, as amended, has designated May 1 of each year as "Loyalty Day." On this special occasion, I encourage all Americans to join me in reaffirming our allegiance to our blessed Nation.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2002, as Loyalty Day. I call upon all Americans to take part in celebrating this national observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:32 a.m., May 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

## Proclamation 7550—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2002

*May 1, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Our Nation's rich cultural diversity reflects our Constitution's core vision of freedom and justice for all. Throughout our history, Asian/Pacific Americans have made great contributions to America's heritage and prosperity. During this month, we proudly celebrate Asian/Pacific Americans, one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, for their remarkable role in our Nation's development.

Through the years, Asian immigrants and Pacific Islanders have enriched the American way of life. Nobel Prize winner Dr. Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar's groundbreaking theories on the evolution of stars helped lay the foundation for modern astrophysics. Actress Anna May Wong was one of the first Asian Americans to achieve great fame in American film. And the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed primarily of Asian/Pacific Americans, valiantly served our Nation during World War II. These units are remembered as some of the most highly decorated in U.S. military history.

During the observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among the more than 30 ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific found here in the United States. We also recognize millions of Asian/Pacific Americans whose love of family, hard work, and community has helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a Nation.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102–450, as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon our citizens to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and how they have contributed so much to our national heritage and culture.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

## Proclamation 7551—Older Americans Month, 2002

*May 1, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Our Nation's strength and vitality reside in our citizens. Each year in May, we honor and recognize older Americans for their important sacrifices and contributions to our society. Our seniors have cared for their families and communities, enhanced our economic prosperity, defended our Nation, and preserved and protected the Founders' vision. Their commitment to our future sets an inspiring example for all. And their resilience, fortitude, and experience provide us with important perspectives and insights as we face the challenges of a new era.

The theme of this year's observance, "America: A Community for All Ages," reminds us that all citizens, regardless of age, are essential to successful and safe communities. The celebration also recognizes the extended role seniors play in our families, communities, and workplaces, as they live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. Drawing on their considerable knowledge and experience, older Americans mentor at-risk children, deliver meals to homebound seniors, and care for frail or chronically ill family members. Others embark on exciting new careers or engage in challenging themselves in athletic competitions. In addition, many seniors have answered my call to service by becoming involved in the Senior Corps domestic service program, which is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

As we celebrate the lives of older Americans, we also renew our dedication to their well-being. My Administration strongly supports measures that protect the promise of retirement and healthcare security for seniors. We must modernize our Medicare and Medicaid programs so that seniors can access the best medicines and treatments. We must secure a good prescription drug benefit program for all our seniors. We must also continue to support medical research that is specifically targeted to the health problems of older Americans. By supporting flexible and innovative forms of long-term care, we can reduce the demands of caring for an elderly or disabled loved one. And we must strengthen financial security by protecting Social Security for today's retirees by encouraging private saving among all Americans, giving individuals more control over their investments.

This year's observance of Older Americans Month also marks the 30th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, one of our most vital, community-based programs for seniors. Managed by the Administration on Aging and supported by the private sector and countless nonprofit organizations, the program has provided nearly 6 billion meals to senior centers and other group settings and to those who are homebound. It has also provided nutrition counseling and opportunities for health screening. For many elderly, this program has made a tremendous impact on their quality of life.

By maintaining and improving programs that assist older Americans, we help these important citizens enjoy longer, healthier, and more productive lives. During this month, I join all Americans in paying tribute to the achievements and contributions of our greatest generation and reaffirming our commitment to their well-being.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as Older Americans Month. I commend the national aging network of State, local, and tribal organizations, service and healthcare providers, caregivers, and millions of dedicated volunteers for your daily efforts on behalf of our senior citizens. I encourage all Americans to honor their elders, to seek opportunities to address their needs, and to work together to reinforce the bonds that unite families and communities. I also call upon all our citizens to publicly reaffirm our Nation's commitment to older Americans this month and throughout the year.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 3, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 6.

## The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders

*May 2, 2002*

***President Bush*** It is a pleasure to welcome President Aznar and President Prodi to Washington, DC, for this summit. We had a good discussion on the common challenges facing the United States and the European Union, including the urgent need to fight terror and to promote peace in the Middle East.

Just one month ago I called on all the parties in the Middle East to step up to their responsibilities to end terror, to make progress toward peace, and to build better lives for all the people of the region. In recent days, we're beginning to see some signs of progress. The situation in Ramallah has been resolved nonviolently. We're working for peace in Bethlehem. I'm encouraged by my meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah and the steps he has taken to advance his vision of peace. Next week I will meet with Prime Minister Sharon and King Abdullah of Jordan to discuss next steps on the road ahead.

The United States and the EU share a common vision of two states, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security. This vision offers the Palestinian people a new opportunity to choose how they live. We should take this opportunity to help build institutions that will serve the Palestinian people, a Palestinian state, and its neighbors as well.

A Palestinian state must be achieved by negotiating an end to occupation, but such a state cannot be based on a foundation of terror or corruption. A Palestinian state must be based on the principles that are critical to freedom and prosperity: democracy and open markets, the rule of law, transparent and accountable administration, and respect for individual liberties and civil society.

We want to work with the Palestinian people, our regional partners, and the international community to build a Palestinian state that both lives at peace with Israel and lives up to the best hopes of its people.

The EU, as well, and the United States, has an important role to play. When the EU and the United States work together, we multiply our effectiveness. Today we discussed our desires to continue working together. We see this in the fight against global terror, where we've been cooperating closely. We see this in the Balkans, where together we have solidified the peace, prevented civil war in Macedonia, and helped the region become more fully part of the European community. And we're working together to bring reconstruction and hope to Afghanistan, so that it never again serves as a haven for terror.

We must bring the same spirit of cooperation to our common economic agenda. Today I informed President Aznar and President Prodi that I will work with our Congress to fully comply with the WTO decision on our tax rules for international corporations. This will require both time, and it will require legislation. I hope and expect that we can all act in the same spirit of understanding as we work through other problems.

This is a time for hope for the United States and for Europe, a time when our cooperation could lead to a safer and to a better world. I look forward to traveling to Europe later this month to strengthen our close ties and to advance our common goals.

*Ahora el placer es mio para* welcome my friend, *el Presidente de Espana,* Jose Maria Aznar. *Senor Presidente.*

***President Aznar.*** Good afternoon, everyone. First of all, I'd like to thank President Bush for his hospitality at this meeting between the European Union and the United States. And besides his hospitality, I'd like to thank him for the hard work and dedication that he and his entire staff have put into ensuring the success of this meeting.

The first thing is that I hope not to disappoint people in terms of their expectations about hearing about strong controversies between Europe and the United States, because that has not happened. In fact, we are here to send out a very positive message concerning the strength of the relationship between the European Union and the United States, and especially our determination that that strong relationship be further strengthened in the extraordinary circumstances we are currently experiencing politically, economically, and in terms of security that we must face together.

So the message is that we have strengthened the ties between the EU and the United States, thanks to this meeting. And this is no doubt a very positive factor. I'd like to briefly touch on four issues, because President Bush has made a very accurate summary of our meeting.

Number one, the fight against terrorism: The work carried out jointly between the U.S. and the EU is increasingly being enhanced, becoming broader. You know that the EU has adopted an action plan against terrorism. We've reviewed the legislation in all of our countries to step up the fight against terrorism, to combat financing of terrorism and comply with U.N. resolutions and join all other countries in this fight.

Secondly, we have a mandate from all EU countries to negotiate an agreement for judicial assistance and cooperation on criminal matters. And we hope that negotiations for that will proceed as quickly as possible, so that this doesn't just pertain to security issues but will also spread to judicial matters. It would be a bit absurd not to be aware of the fact that terrorists move internationally, and we have to approach that from a common judicial area, to the extent possible.

Between us, we've broadened—or lengthened the list of terrorist organizations, and we hope that there will be an increased rapprochement between the lists approved by both the U.S. and the EU. And as far as that goes, we are firmly resolved to combat terrorism wherever it takes place, with all that that entails, and with the ultimate objective of eradicating terrorism so as to enjoy a safer, more stable world for all.

The second issue I'd like to refer to has to do with more general topics. You heard from President Bush about the Middle East, and in just a few moments, the quad will be meeting again—that is, the U.S., the EU, Russia, and U.N. Secretary-General. That agreement is extremely important. We attach the utmost importance to the work that we can do jointly in the Middle East in the quest for the essential features: security for all; an immediate cease-fire; and a political perspective which would lead to a democratic, independent Palestinian state and a state of Israel that is entitled to live in security, calm, and free from any kind of violent or terrorist aggression on its territory. So that is the perspective. These are the initiatives. And this is what we're working on, along with economic issues.

I also wanted to refer to the very positive joint work we're carrying out in the Balkans and in Afghanistan and the exchange of opinions we've had concerning Russia. President Bush and the European Union and I, myself, have worked on providing support for President Putin, considering their new strategic approach. President Bush's trip, the NATO meeting in Rome, and the EU-Russia meeting, all upcoming, point to a particularly important turning point in terms of defining new strategic positions for Russia in the world that require our understanding and support.

The final point is that U.S. and Europe account for 40 percent of world trade. Between us, approximately 96, 97 percent of the economic issues work satisfactorily, with

no problems. And we have agreed to work very hard on a positive agenda to further enhance the commercial ties and ties in terms of trade between the EU and the U.S. And in terms of certain specific differences—President Bush has referred to a few of them—it is our expectation and hope and this is what we're going to work on, that in the coming months there will be negotiations underway which will naturally safeguard the fundamental interests of both sides and, in compliance with the WTO, that will enable us to lead to positive results and conclusions.

We have worked on all of this; we have made progress on all of this; so I would like to say that from the point of view of the European Council and the EU, this summit has fulfilled the goal of strengthening our ties and relations and will ensure the success of these relations between the U.S. and the EU.

***President Prodi.*** [*Inaudible*]—but to what has been told by President Bush and President Aznar. It was clear today that the world is going better when U.S. and Europe get together. We have seen it recently in Doha, in Monterrey; we have seen it in the Balkans and in Afghanistan. We have sometimes disagreement, but we really share the same deep values and the same common strategy.

We tackled also some case in which we have difference—steel, for example, on the legitimacies of U.S. safeguards, which we believe are certainly harming us, on the possibility of short-term rebalancing. But we have agreed that discussions should continue, without any prejudice to our respective rights under WTO. We both intend to play it by the WTO rules. And so I think that even in this field, we shall demonstrate friendly way of working.

I want to praise the President of the United States for the leadership he's showing on a problem that is certainly difficult—you know, the export—on the export subsidies and on the problems that are linked to that.

And you know, I want to end just with one reflection. I think that everybody in America should consider what we are doing now in Europe. What we are trying to do in this great 2002 Europe is now the currency of 12 nations. We will soon enlarge European Union to embrace until, I hope, 10 new countries before the end of the year. And we are also working on the convention to reform our institutions. The democratic unification of our Continent is happening, and it is an enormous effort. And this is really the end of the end of the end of the cold war. And I hope that what we are doing is appreciated for the dimension of the problem, if you consider the difference of income, the different tradition, the different habits of the 25 countries that now we shall have together inside the European Union.

So what we present here is really a new Europe.

***President Bush.*** Thank you, President.

I think we've got time for three questions. It makes sense that an American asks a question, and then Jose Maria will call on somebody, and President Prodi will call on somebody, and then we've all got to go on our respective ways.

So I'll start with Mr. Fournier, AP [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. Yes.

***Q.*** Thank you, sir.

***President Bush.*** You're welcome.

### *Situation in the Middle East*

***Q.*** Despite the existence of what you called some signs of progress in the Middle East in the long month since your Rose Garden statement, neither side has fully complied. Just yesterday, Ariel Sharon scuttled your push for a U.N. peace mission to Jenin. And Yasser Arafat—Arafat called the Israelis terrorists, Nazis, and racists. And yet, there have been no consequences for defying you. Are you open to cutting off U.S. aid to either Israel or the Palestinians, and are there any consequences for those who thumb their nose at the President of the United States?

***President Bush.*** In this world, there are people who think the glass is half empty or half full. I tend to look at it as half full. I'm optimistic we're making good progress. After all, a week ago there were—Yasser Arafat was boarded up in his building in Ramallah, a building full of, evidently, German peace protestors and all kinds of people. They're now out; he's now free to show leadership, to lead the world. We're making good progress.

There's a lot to be done. We're dealing with centuries and years of hatred, and I understand that. But I am pleased that the Arab world is responding. I had great visits with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. They're—according to some American newspapers, they're, you know, very much engaged, and I appreciate that. I'm pleased with that. I think that's a positive development.

I am absolutely convinced it's going to require the efforts of the Saudis and the Jordanians and the Egyptians to help cement a lasting peace. And the Crown Prince is following up on his initiative, and I think that's a positive development.

I think it's very important for Chairman Arafat to show the world that he's capable of leading. As I said in my remarks in the Rose Garden about a month ago—which, by the way, in the terms of the Middle East isn't all that long a period of time, in my judgment—that he has just been disappointing. He has disappointed. He's had some chance to grab the peace and hasn't done so in the past, and therefore he's let down the Palestinian people. Now's the chance to show he can lead.

And of course, I placed responsibilities on Israel as well, and I look forward to continuing my discussions with world leaders. Part of the importance of meeting with Jose and Roman was to talk about a way forward. And as Jose Maria mentioned, the Secretary of State is going to be talking with the ministers of the quad about a way forward. I'll be doing the same thing with King Abdullah and Prime Minister Sharon, as we come up with a way to cement a vision of peace in place.

But it starts with people assuming responsibilities, and people are beginning to assume responsibilities. And that's why I'm optimistic progress is being made.

Jose.

***Q.*** No threat of losing their aid, sir?

***President Bush.*** Jose.

### *Terrorism*

***Q.*** [*Inaudible*]—the American press and the public opinion in America is still referring to ETA just like a band who is fighting for its independence in Spain. I wonder if the United States has same commit to fight terrorists in Spain as much as is about fighting terrorists in other parts of the world, and what can you do to help Spain in this fight? And I'd like to know also your opinion about the way this topic is treated in America.

***President Bush.*** Yes, let me start with that, and then you can finish.

***President Aznar.*** No, no, no. [*Laughter*]

***President Bush.*** It's your country. [*Laughter*]

When I was last in Spain, I talked about this very subject, and I spoke—this was before September the 11th. And I spoke very clearly about my friend's efforts to fight terrorist activity within the country of Spain. I just want to remind you of the timing, that I made a public statement about terrorist activities in the country of Spain prior to my country being attacked. So terrorist activities within the borders of Spain has been on my mind.

It is—we stand ready to help the President. If the President asks for help, the United States of America is more than willing to provide that help. We're doing—we've got great cooperations—cooperation with our friends in Spain. We share intelligence; we talk about arrests that we've made. I mean, we are close friends and allies. And Jose Maria knows this very well: I'm a phone call away, and terror is terror, and we must fight it wherever it exists.

***President Aznar.*** President Bush was very right in saying that when he was in Madrid, during his visit to Spain before 9/11, in May/June last year, he explicitly expressed his support for Spain's fight against terrorism.

But what I would like to say once again is that we can establish no differences among terrorists. They're all the same. They're all seeking to destroy our harmonious coexistence, to destroy civilization. They're seeking to destroy our democracy and freedoms. A terrorist attacking the Twin Towers in New York or the Pentagon in Washington is tantamount to the same kind of criminal who places a car bomb in Madrid or on the streets of any other Spanish city. President Bush and I know that there are no differences as far as that go. And that's how we approach the issue, and we will continue to do so.

The cooperation between Spain and the U.S. on counterterrorism is maximum; the

cooperation between intelligence and security services, also—because we both hold the conviction that moral values underpin our struggle and our fight against terrorism. And the moral value of what it means to uphold the principles of democracy and freedom and the principles of our countries in the face of terrorism is basic.

And the memory of the victims is the very finest thing. We must remember. We must never forget the victims. That's the best reason to combat terrorism.

And there is never any reason whatsoever to establish dialog with terrorists—ever. To initiate dialog with terrorists is tantamount to problems for democracy. Terrorists cannot have, must not have, and certainly for our part will never have any other fate than that of being permanently defeated in Spain or anywhere else. And when I say "anywhere else," what I mean is that cooperation with United States and most especially with President Bush in the international fight against terrorism is and will continue to be to the maximum.

***President Bush.*** Pick one, Roman.

### *NATO/EU Defense Policy*

***Q.*** Yes, this is a question for all of the Presidents. I have to—I want to ask a question about the future of NATO and the cooperation with the European Union. For many months now, there is a problem with the future of ESDP, because of Greece's position—opposition not to accept the Ankara agreement that Great Britain, with the participation of the U.S. and EU, broke with Turkey, a non-EU member of NATO. Do you have anything on this issue, and did you discuss this issue with the President?

***President Prodi.*** No, we didn't discuss this issue today, but of course this is part of our vision for the future strategy because we want to make the progress of this type of cooperation—that is, shared progress.

We mentioned before an enlargement, you know, and of course, that we are—our goal, our strategy is to have also Cyprus among the countries of enlargement. We hope that will be one of the 10 countries in December. So we think that a cooperative spirit can permit this goal, because Europe must have also in the Mediterranean area its role, its influence. And it's positive influence in these difficult days in the area.

***President Bush.*** Thank you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:14 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. President Bush met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, in his capacity as President of the European Council, and President Romano Prodi of the European Commission. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; King Abdullah II of Jordan; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. President Aznar referred to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Reporters referred to ETA, the Basque Fatherland and Liberty separatist group operating primarily in the Basque region of Spain; and ESDP, the European Security and Defense Policy. A portion of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## Remarks at a National Day of Prayer Reception

*May 2, 2002*

Welcome to the White House. One of the best things about my job is, sometimes I get introduced by my wife—[*laughter*]—who I love dearly.

Today we continue a tradition that is as old as our Nation itself, setting aside a day in which Americans are encouraged to pray, pray for their neighbors, and pray for our Nation. The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our national heritage, because prayer is a vital part of our national life.

I'm grateful to all of you who remind us that a great people must spend time on bended knee, in humility, searching for wisdom in the presence of the Almighty. I want to thank the Heritage Signature Chorale and Dr. Stanley Thurston for being here today. I want to thank Amy Burton, soloist of the New York City Opera, and we're sure glad you brought your son. I want to thank Shirley Dobson, who is the chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Thank you for your leadership, Shirley. I want to thank Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie and Dr. Daniel Coughlin for being here as well. I'm honored that you both

came. And Lloyd, thank you—and Shirley—for your beautiful comments. It really meant a lot.

When the first Continental Congress met at Carpenters Hall in Philadelphia, one of its first official acts was prayer. In 1779, the Day of Prayer Proclamation asked that "Almighty God would grant the blessings of peace to all contending nations, freedom to those who are in bondage, and comfort to the afflicted."

During our Nation's darkest hour, our Nation's greatest President called America back to prayer. President Abraham Lincoln urged his fellow citizens to "look to the redeeming and preserving grace of God." And Americans wisely accepted President Lincoln's counsel.

America is a country of faith. And throughout our history, in times of crisis and in times of calm, Americans have always turned to prayer. And this year's event has special meaning. Since the attacks of September the 11th, millions—millions—of Americans of every religious faith have been led to prayer. They have prayed for comfort in a time of sorrow, for courage in a time of fear, and for understanding in a time of anger. They have prayed for wisdom in the midst of war and for strength on the journey ahead.

These prayers have been made in private homes and in houses of worship, alone and with others, in moments of doubt and in times of thanksgiving. These prayers have been heartfelt, and they have made a tremendous difference. Prayer for others is a generous act. It sweeps away bitterness and heals old wounds. Prayer leads to greater humility and a more grateful spirit. It strengthens our commitment to things that last and things that matter. It deepens our love for one another.

Prayer also deepens faith, reminding us of great truths: Evil and suffering are only for a time; love and hope endure. Even in the world's most bitter conflicts, prayer reminds us of God's love and grace, His mercy and faithfulness, the hope He provides, and the peace He promises.

Prayer is central to the lives of countless Americans, including Laura's and mine. We have been blessed by the prayers of millions of Americans. We could ask for no greater gift from our countrymen.

I want to thank you all for coming here to the White House to celebrate this special day, for your devotion to prayer, and for your love of this country, and for the Lord who has blessed it for so long.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Stanley Thurston, director, Heritage Signature Chorale; Amy Burton, soloist, New York City Opera, and her son, Joshua; Lloyd J. Ogilvie, Senate Chaplain; and Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, House Chaplain.

## Statement on Congressional Action on the "Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002"

*May 2, 2002*

I congratulate Chairman Combest and the other House and Senate conferees for a job well done in completing the "Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002."

I am pleased that the compromise agreement on the farm bill resulted in better balanced commodity loan rates; spending that is no longer front-loaded; and the strongest conservation provisions of any farm bill ever passed by Congress. The final provisions of the farm bill are also consistent with America's international trade obligations, which will strengthen our ability to open foreign markets for American farm products. While this compromise agreement did not satisfy all of my objectives, I am pleased that this farm bill provides a generous and reliable safety net for our Nation's farmers and ranchers and is consistent with the principles I outlined.

I thank the conferees for their hard work and urge Congress to send the farm bill to my desk promptly for signature to help ensure the immediate and long-term vitality of our farm economy.

## Proclamation 7552—National Charter Schools Week, 2002

*May 2, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Over a decade ago in Minnesota, a handful of educators envisioned a new kind of educational institution that would provide an alternative for children trapped in under-performing public schools. Their philosophy for a "charter school" was straightforward and powerful: provide parents the option to send their children to innovative public schools that combine flexibility and autonomy with a guarantee to raise student achievement.

Today, we recognize the important successes of the charter school experiment. Nearly 2,400 charter schools now exist across our Nation. Thanks to bipartisan support at the local, State, and Federal level, more than a half-million children have attended these public schools and obtained a better education.

In reading, math, science, special education, early childhood education, and other areas, charter schools have implemented innovative programs that produce results. Charter school principals and teachers have the freedom to develop classroom techniques that meet their students' unique needs, and parents appreciate the ability to have direct input into their children's educational progress. Charter school administrators are accountable to students, parents, and community leaders, and they know that if their school fails to meet expectations, it must either improve or close.

The effects of charter schools extend beyond the schoolhouse walls. Wherever charter schools are clustered together, we see traditional schools reevaluate their methods and programs. At this basic level, charter schools help stimulate community debate and inspire educational excellence.

Accountability, flexibility, expanded choices, and a focus on methods that work are all important elements in the landmark, bipartisan, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which I signed into law in January. This legislation authorizes a new program, the Charter School Facility Demonstration Project, which provides important seed funding for charter school infrastructure and construction needs. It also continues the Charter School Grants program that supports planning and development of new public charter schools. Together these programs provide valuable tools to American education. Now we must work together to implement this new legislation in all our communities so no child is left behind.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 28 through May 4, 2002, as National Charter Schools Week. I call on parents of charter school children to share their success stories with others so that all Americans may learn more about charter schools and their important work. I commend the States with charter schools.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this second day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 7.

## Remarks on Senate Inaction on Nominations for the Federal Judiciary

*May 3, 2002*

Thank you all. Some of them were pretty good—and one of them was really good, right, Al? [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you all for coming, and I want to talk about an important subject, and that's our judiciary. One of the true strengths of our democracy is a judiciary that is fair, impartial, and independent. Our courts depend on the dedicated service of men and women who are called to decide disputes. Yet today, there is a vacancy crisis on our Federal courts. Both the President

and the United States Senate have constitutional responsibilities to address vacancies on the Federal bench. I have nominated 100 outstanding jurists for these posts, but the Senate thus far has not done its part to ensure that our Federal courts operate at full strength. Justice is at risk in America, and the Senate must act for the good of the country.

I want to thank Al Gonzales; he's *mi abogado*. He's been my lawyer; he's been—served on the—as secretary of state in Texas; he's served on the U.S.—or the Texas Supreme Court; he and his able staff work long hours to really find the best possible nominees for the bench. And I want to—I appreciate Al's leadership, and I appreciate those who work with Al, on behalf of the White House, for their long hours.

I want to thank you all for coming. Thanks so very much for your interest in this important subject. And it's an important subject. I mean we're talking about an incredibly important part of our country. And I want you all to help spread the word about how serious the vacancy crisis is. You pay attention to this issue, and you can help advocate what I'm about to call the Senate to do.

This is Law Week—or Law Day, and it's a day we celebrate the legal profession in our democracy and a day set aside to recall the role of law in our society. This year's Law Day theme is "Assuring Equal Justice for All." And that's a noble theme, and it's a noble calling. We're all proud of our judiciary. We know that justice and security and prosperity can flourish only in a society governed by law.

We're grateful to our Federal courts; we're grateful for the vital work that they play in our American system. Federal judges are key to make sure America functions well. Every day, they uphold the rights of an individual, protect the innocent; they punish the guilty. Their rulings are essential to the rule of law in our Nation. To discharge their responsibilities effectively, the Federal courts must have judges. Yet today, more than 10 percent of all Federal judgeships are vacant.

The Chief Justice of the United States recently warned that the number of vacancies is, in his words, alarming. The crisis is especially severe—especially severe—in our 12 regional Circuit Courts of Appeals, where more than 1 in 6 judgeships is vacant. The Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, for example, handles some of our Nation's highest profile cases, including an important class of cases involving terrorists. But 4 out of 12 judgeships are not filled.

The Sixth Court of Appeals, which covers Ohio and Kentucky and Michigan and Tennessee, is even worse off. Back in March of 2000, when it had only four vacancies, its chief judge said it was hurting badly and would not be able to keep up with its workload. Today, 8 of the Sixth Circuit's 16 judgeships are vacant, despite the fact that I sent up 7 nominations many months ago.

All across America, the wait for justice is growing longer. The burden on Federal judges is growing heavier. And the frustration level of ordinary Americans seeking justice is growing greater.

To address this vacancy crisis, I have submitted the names of 100 Federal court nominees to the United States Senate. These 100 nominees are notable for their distinction and their accomplishments. They are exceptional for their humanity and their integrity. They are in the solid mainstream of American legal opinion, and they share a principled commitment to follow and apply the law, not to make law from the bench.

But the Senate has confirmed only one-half of my nominees. It has confirmed only 9 of my 30 nominees to the Circuit Courts of Appeals—only 9 out of 30. Every one of these 30 nominees rated so far have been judged either well-qualified or qualified by the American Bar Association, which has been hailed as the gold standard by Senate Democrats.

On May 9th, 2001, nearly a year ago, I submitted—I introduced my first 11 nominees to the Courts of Appeal. Yet the Senate Judiciary Committee has held hearings for only 3 of these nominees. All the others are still awaiting confirmation hearings—an entire year later. The eight still waiting a hearing include some of the leading appellate lawyers in the Nation, some of the most well respected sitting judges, and one of the country's finest law professors. Collectively, this group of 8 nominees has argued more than 60 cases in the Supreme Court of the United

States. Yet all, every one of them, still wait for the Senate to take even the first step down the road toward confirmation.

The Senate can do much more and must do much more to address the current vacancy crisis. A year ago I urged Senators from both parties to rise above the bitterness of the past and provide a fair hearing and prompt vote for every nominee. And my call for a prompt vote—it doesn't matter to me who's in the White House or who controls the Senate. What matters to me is that we have a—that we address the vacancy crisis, that we solve the problem our Nation faces. That's what matters.

Let me tell you what the Chief Justice said recently. And I want you to know he was speaking expressly on behalf of the Federal judiciary. He asked the Senate to grant prompt hearings and up or down votes on all nominees. But the Senate has not acted, and by its inaction, the Senate is endangering the administration of justice in America.

All judicial nominees deserve a timely hearing, and they deserve a vote. As everyone here today understands, Americans need and deserve a judicial system at full strength. As we celebrate the role of law in our democracy, I call on Senate Democrats to end the vacancy crisis in our Federal courts by restoring fairness to the judicial confirmation process.

I want to thank you all for your interest in this incredibly important subject. I thank you for standing for justice and fairness, the American way.

One of the things that I talk about to—when I go to these conferences to try to help developing nations, or I talk about when leaders come in the Oval Office—I always talk about the need for there to be rule of law, that in order for people to be able to realize their dreams, society must be a society of law, and there ought to be rule of law. And our country is a shining example of that. But in order to make sure we continue to shine, we've got to address problems in a timely way when we find them. And that's what I'm here to discuss, and I want to thank you for your interest.

And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:31 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

## Remarks at a Cinco de Mayo Reception

*May 3, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Please, *sientanse*. [*Laughter*] *Bienvenidos*. Welcome to the White House. This is the *casa para todos*. I'm honored you all have come to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It's a pleasure to have you here. The victory we commemorate today is a source of tremendous pride to the people of Mexico and a source of inspiration to the people of America.

I want to thank *mi esposa*, Laura, for her—[*laughter*]—*mi amor*. I want to thank Sara for her passion for the education of Latino children. She is a—well, she's unique. She's smart; she's capable. After all, she's a *tejana*. [*Laughter*] But I really do appreciate her focus, her willingness to work hard to make sure that every child has got the opportunity to realize his or her dreams in America.

I want to thank *el Embajador de Mexico, mi amigo* Juan Jose Bremer, *tambien, esposa*. Thank you all for coming. And I appreciate all the *Mexicanos* who are here today. I'm glad you're here to celebrate a special day in your country, here in the White House. It's an indication of our friendship.

I want to thank members of my administration who are here, too many to name. I will name the Cabinet Secretary, Mel Martinez. I appreciate Mel's service. I see the Treasurer; *mi abogado*, Gonzales; the new Surgeon General nominee, Rick Carmona. Thank you, Rick; I appreciate you being here. I better stop now, before I forget somebody.

I want to thank Ed Pastor, the Congressman from the State of Arizona. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank Ana Maria for your being here. I really appreciate you coming. You did a great job as the emcee. And I know a lot of Americans watch your TV show, and we're honored you're here. I really want to thank Pedro Fernandez. Pedro, you're awesome. I'm not sure how you say that in Spanish—

[*laughter*]—or *Mexicano, brillante*. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank you and your *tres hombres* for being here. [*Laughter*]

Al, thank you for leading the Pledge. Al is the Director of the Selective Service. He wears the Medal of Honor. And again, thank you all for coming. We're so honored to have you.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates a great victory in the battle of Puebla. I remember when I went down, Jose, to—the guest of the previous President, President Zedillo, to see a reenactment of the battle in Puebla. It was exciting, and it was able to see firsthand the great courage and the victory in the battle for freedom that was fought against overwhelming odds.

That victory continues to inspire liberty-loving people all across the globe. It reminds us that the cost of freedom is always high, but it is never too high. Brave and determined people, committed to a great cause, can do great good. That was true 140 years ago, and it certainly remains true today.

Just before September the 11th, I welcomed my good friend President Vicente Fox *aqui*, in Washington, DC, as the guest of honor at the very first state dinner I hosted as the President. When he arrived, I said this—at the beautiful arrival ceremony we have on the South Lawn—I said, "The United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico." I meant it then; I mean it now.

In the past 8 months, our relationship has grown even stronger. The people of Mexico stand with the American people in the war on terror. This is a decisive decade in the history of liberty, a decisive moment in our history, and the United States is grateful we can count on the strong support of Mexico.

America's strong relationship with Mexico is built on common values and shared culture. We both value families; we both value communities—the places where character is formed and traditions are passed from one generation to the next. Americans appreciate the strong faith of the Mexican people, a faith that provides hope and inspiration and unity, even in the darkest of times. People on both sides of the Rio Grande value independence and value freedom and opportunity. People on *dos lados del Rio Bravo* appreciate the ability to work hard to achieve dreams and to become successful as a result of hard work. By their strong values and their determination to create a better life for themselves and their children, immigrants from Mexico enrich American life.

My relationship with President Fox is similar to the relationship between our nations. It is built on the solid ground of respect and trust and friendship. President Fox is a great Mexican patriot, a man who—a man of honest talk and convictions who is passionately concerned for his people's welfare. I know firsthand; I've heard him speak clearly about the welfare of the people of Mexico.

We're both deeply committed to helping the entire American *familia* achieve prosperity and, as importantly, to live in peace. Mexico and America share a continent, and we are dedicated to common goals.

We are working together to create a smart border, one that will speed the safe flow of people and commerce but protect our two nations from terrorism and crime.

We are working together on a partnership for prosperity, to better focus the creativity and resources of the private sector on the critical task of development.

We're working together to address the important issue and challenging issue of immigration. I've asked our Congress to pass an extension of section 245(i) of our immigration law to allow families to stay together while they become permanent residents. There is no reason why this law should not be passed.

We're working together to improve conditions for people living along the border. It's really important that we do so.

We're working together to create an entire hemisphere that lives in liberty and trades in freedom. And I appreciate President Fox's leadership in our hemisphere. I rely upon his advice and good counsel; I appreciate his vision.

Our two nations will succeed together—we will succeed together—because our futures are bound to each other. Geography made us neighbors, but our shared values and rich cultures have made us the closest of friends.

The great Mexican leader Benito Juarez had a strong bond with President Abraham

Lincoln. Juarez said, "Between individuals, as between nations, *'el respecto al derecho ajeno es la paz'*—respect for the rights of others is peace." The United States and Mexico have a relationship of respect. It is the foundation of our enduring peace and lasting friendship.

I want to thank you all again for coming to the White House to celebrate Mexico's strong and vibrant culture, its extraordinary history, our common future. May God bless the people of Mexico, and may God continue to bless the people of the United States.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sara Martinez Tucker, president and chief executive officer, Hispanic Scholarship Fund; Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Juan Jose Bremer and his wife, Marcela S. Bremer; Rosario Marin, U.S. Treasurer; Alberto R. Gonzales, Counsel to the President; Ana Maria Canseco, reporter, Univision; Pedro Fernandez, singer; Alfred Rascon, Director, Selective Service System; and former President Ernesto Zedillo and President Vicente Fox of Mexico. In his remarks, he referred to section 245(i) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act which expired April 30, 2001. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

### *April 27*

During the day, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Houston, TX, where they attended the wedding of former Presidential Aide Logan Walters. In the evening, they returned to Crawford.

### *April 28*

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia concerning the situation in the Middle East.

### *April 29*

In the morning, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM. In the afternoon, he traveled to Los Angeles, CA.

### *April 30*

In the morning, the President traveled to San Jose, CA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Santa Clara, CA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal at the White House on May 7 to discuss key bilateral issues and Nepal's fight against Maoist terrorists.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia to the White House on May 17.

The White House announced that the President will attend the NATO-Russia Summit in Italy on May 28.

The President announced his intention to nominate David McQueen Laney to be a member of the Amtrak Reform Board.

### *May 1*

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later in the morning, he met with Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore to discuss cooperation against terrorism and other regional issues. He then met with Republican House and Senate leaders to discuss the pending congressional agenda.

In the afternoon, the President met with Vice President Hu Jintao of China. Also in the afternoon, he met with House Appropriations Committee Chairman C.W. Bill Young.

The President announced his designation of Adm. David E. Jeremiah, USN (Ret.), as

the Presidential Representative for Australian-American Friendship Week, May 3–11.

The White House announced that the President will meet with King Abdullah II of Jordan at the White House on May 8 to discuss developments in the Middle East and key bilateral issues.

The President declared a major disaster in Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a tornado on April 28.

***May 2***

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan to discuss U.S. assistance to Afghanistan. He also had a telephone conversation with President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia to express his condolences concerning the recent earthquake in Georgia, cooperation against terrorism, and issues in the Caucasus region. He then had CIA and FBI briefings.

***May 3***

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia to discuss arms reduction, trade issues, and issues related to NATO.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD, where, in the evening, they welcomed President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and his wife, Ana Botella.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel at the White House on May 7 to discuss developments in the Middle East and key bilateral issues.

## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

***Submitted April 29***

Alberto Faustino Trevino,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Susan M. Wachter, resigned.

Elias Adam Zerhouni,
of Maryland, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, vice Harold Varmus, resigned.

***Submitted May 1***

Susan G. Braden,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, vice Roger B. Andewelt, deceased.

Kyle E. McSlarrow,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, vice Francis S. Blake, resigned.

Reena Raggi,
of New York, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, vice Amalya L. Kearse, retired.

## Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

***Released April 28***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the situation in the Middle East

***Released April 29***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on terrorism and foreign policy at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies

Announcement of appointment to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

Fact sheet: Improving Access to Quality Mental Health Care

Advance text of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge's remarks at the Associated Press annual luncheon

***Released April 30***

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreement to begin talks with the United States

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Nepalese Prime Minister Deuba

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Attend NATO-Russia Summit in Italy

Fact sheet: Compassionate Conservatism

***Released May 1***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by King Abdullah of Jordan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maryland

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Brief Members of the Senate Regarding Border Security Issues

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit and U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge

***Released May 2***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Transatlantic Dialogues

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: The European Union

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Counterterrorism Cooperation

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Economics and Trade

Fact sheet: U.S.-EU Summit: Afghanistan Security and Reconstruction

***Released May 3***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Sharon of Israel

Statement by the Press Secretary: United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls on the Senate To Address the Vacancy Crisis in the Federal Courts

## Acts Approved by the President

***Approved May 1***

S. 2248 / Public Law 107–168
To extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank until May 31, 2002

Contents—Continued

**Proclamations**

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month—728
Law Day, U.S.A.—724
Loyalty Day—727
National Charter Schools Week—736
National Day of Prayer—697
Older Americans Month—729

**Statements by the President**

Congressional action on the "Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002"—735

**Supplementary Materials**

Acts approved by the President—742
Checklist of White House press releases—741
Digest of other White House announcements—740
Nominations submitted to the Senate—741

**US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE**
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, $300

**PRESORTED STANDARD**
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

**********ALL FOR STATE MI

A PD COLVI346B DEC 02 R
BONNIE COLVIN
C/O BELL & HOWELL
PO BOX 1346
ANN ARBOR MI 48106